

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. IX.—NEW SERIES, No. 175.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1849.

[PRICE 6d.]

WHITTINGTON CLUB and METROPOLITAN ATHENÆUM, 189, Strand.

On Thursday Evening next (to-morrow), March 22nd, 1849, JAMES SILK BUCKINGHAM, Esq., will deliver the Fourth of a Course of Four Lectures on PALESTINE, or the HOLY LAND, and will continue the same on each succeeding Thursday until completed. To commence at Eight o'clock.

Admission to Lectures:—Members Free, on producing their Tickets, with the privilege of obtaining Tickets for their friends at Sixpence each. Non-Subscribers, One Shilling.

Detailed Lecture Programmes may be had on application to the Secretary.

P. BERLYN, Secretary.

189, Strand, March 21st, 1849.

ENGLISH HOMŒOPATHIC ASSOCIATION. HOMŒOPATHY.

DR. EPPS will deliver the FOURTH of the COURSE of SIX LECTURES on the above SCIENCE, at EXETER HALL, on THURSDAY, (to-morrow) March 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Tickets to the Course, Three Shillings.—Single Lecture, One Shilling.

Tickets can be obtained of Mr. JAMES EPPS, Homœopathic Chemist, 112, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury; of Mr. VARTY, Bookseller, York-house, 31, Strand; and at Exeter Hall on the nights of Lecture, of Mr. SUMAN, 9, Exeter Hall.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Instituted for the Training of Teachers, and the promotion of Schools for Popular Instruction, apart from all State aid or interference.

THE COMMITTEE hereby give NOTICE, that they are willing to receive APPLICATIONS from young men desirous of becoming PUPILS in the NORMAL SCHOOL. Such applications, stating name, age, address, and other particulars, to be made in writing, and forwarded, with the least possible delay, to the Secretaries, at the Office, 26, New Broad-street, London.

HENRY RICHARD,

JOSEPH BARRETT,

CHARLES THEODORE JONES,

Hon. Secs.

March 19th, 1849.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.—EASTERN EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

A GENERAL EXAMINATION of SCHOOL-MASTERS and SCHOOLMISTRESSES, for Certificates of Merit, will take place at Easter. Trustees and Managers of Schools who are desirous that their Teachers should attend this Examination, may ascertain what Candidates are admissible on this occasion, and the time and place at which the examination will be held, by a written application to the Secretary, Committee of Council on Education, Council Office, London.

A SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER is desirous of procuring employment for a Promising Lad of Fifteen, who has been some time in his class. He can receive nineteen months' character from his last employer, and would take any situation, where, by activity and diligence, he could make himself useful. Apply to V. B. R., Mudie's Select Library, 28, Upper King-street, Bloomsbury-square.

MR. BOUVIERIE'S BILL.—REV. JAMES SHORE.—At a Meeting of the Committee of the Deputies of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters, Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist, in and within twelve miles of London, appointed to protect their civil rights, held at the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry, on Monday, the 19th day of March, 1849,

JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., in the Chair,

It was resolved unanimously—That this meeting deplore the proceedings against the Reverend James Shore, which have terminated in his imprisonment, under the operation of a law practically obsolete and repugnant to every principle of civil and religious liberty, and that they petition both Houses of Parliament in favour of Mr. Bouvierie's Bill for the abolition of such a law.

J. R. MILLS, Chairman.

A BOLITION of CHURCH RATES.—At a Meeting of the Committee of the Deputies of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters, Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist, in and within twelve miles of London, appointed to protect their civil rights, held at the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry, on Monday, the 19th day of March, 1849,

JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., in the Chair,

It was resolved unanimously—That the committee avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to express their cordial gratitude to J. S. Trevelyan, Esq., the honourable member for Tavistock, who, on Tuesday last, submitted to the House of Commons a motion for the abolition of Church-rates; to H. A. Aglionby, Esq., Joseph Hume, Esq., Lord Dudley Stuart, C. M. Martin, Esq., Sir W. Clay, Bart., J. Bright, Esq., Ralph Osborne, Esq., Colonel Thompson, George Thompson, Esq., and R. Cobden, Esq., who ably advocated the measure; together with the whole of the 84 independent members of that House who supported the proposition. And also to record their opinion that, although the result was unfavourable to their righteous cause, yet that all the arguments and facts urged in the discussion justify the determination of this committee never to abandon their exertions until Church-rates be entirely abolished, and the friends of religious liberty are freed from an intolerant and oppressive burden no longer to be endured.

J. R. MILLS, Chairman.

THE REV. JOHN CUMMING, D.D., of the Scotch Church, Crown-court, will preach at FINSBURY CHAPEL, FINSBURY-CIRCUS, on the Evening of SUNDAY, MARCH 25th, 1849, being the 23rd Anniversary of the opening of the above place of worship. The Rev. ALEXANDER FLETCHER, D.D., Minister of the Chapel, will preach in the Morning of the same day. Service to commence, in the Morning at a Quarter before Eleven, and in the Evening at a Quarter past Six. Collections will be made after each service.

NEWCASTLE AND GATE-HEAD RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SOCIETY.

(Instituted 1838.)

AT the MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETING

of this Society, held on Wednesday Evening last,

It was unanimously resolved—
"That Mr. Shore's imprisonment, at the instance of the Bishop of Exeter, and the recent decision of the House of Commons on the subject of Church-rates, afford additional evidence that the religious freedom of the people of this country can never be secure till the entire system of Ecclesiastical Establishments—in the Union of Church and State—be abolished; and we, therefore, recommend the friends of religious liberty throughout the empire to concentrate their efforts for the attainment of this object."

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, March 15, 1849.

EMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.

THE Rev. Dr. LANG, from New South Wales, will deliver an Address in EXETER-HALL, on the Evening of FRIDAY, MARCH 23, at Seven o'clock, on the CAPABILITIES of AUSTRALIA for EXTENSIVE COLONIZATION, and especially for the growth of cotton, for the manufacture of this country, by means of European free labour, so as to enable Great Britain to dispense entirely, at no distant period, with the slave-grown produce of America.

The Hon. ARTHUR KINNAIRD will take the Chair.

Admission free. Reserved seats for ladies.

N.B.—A collection will be made at the close of the meeting to defray expenses; and if there should be any surplus remaining, it will be appropriated for the benefit of one or two families now emigrating to Australia.

London, March 19, 1849.

LADIES' INSTITUTE, HACKNEY.

THE attention of PARENTS is invited to this Establishment, which, by offering at a moderate expense the means for pursuing an extended course of study, is designed to give a solid and practical tone to Female Education.

The Classes are conducted by several Professors of eminence, on nearly the same plan and terms as in Queen's College, and are open to Ladies of any age.

Young Ladies resident at the Institute are under watchful and affectionate superintendence, and have every facility for study, with careful moral and religious culture.

Reference is kindly permitted to the following Gentlemen in the neighbourhood:—

Rev. Dr. BURDER, Hackney;

Rev. Dr. MANUEL, Laura-place, Clapton;

Rev. A. WELLS, Upper Clapton;

EUSEBIUS SMITH, Esq., Upper Clapton; also, to

Rev. E. FROUT, Mission-house, Finsbury.

Further particulars may be obtained of Mrs. STALLYBRASS, Ladies' Institute, Mare-street, Hackney.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN.

BRIXTON-HILL, SURREY.

MR. W. K. ROWE, who, for more than ten years, has been the master of the Brixton-hill British School, purposes commencing the above establishment, for a limited number of Boarders and Day Pupils, the first week in April.

The neighbourhood is very delightful, and the premises are pleasantly situated, with extensive garden-grounds, open to a Southern aspect.

Every care will be taken to promote the comfort and happiness of the pupils, both in domestic arrangements and recreation.

Moral and religious training will be an object of constant solicitude, upon the broad principles of the revealed will of God, entirely free from every thing sectarian.

The course of secular instruction—Language, Grammar, and Composition, Mathematics, History, ancient and modern, Geography, physical and political, with the use of the Globes, Drawing, Writing, plain and ornamental, Book-keeping, Natural Sciences, comprising Natural Philosophy, Natural History, Botany, Geology, human and vegetable, Physiology, Natural Phenomena, &c.

The effort will constantly be made to teach things, rather than words—to lead, by successive steps, from the simple to the more complex, on the principle of that great educator Pestalozzi, to develop the entire child, seeking to render the pupils intelligent, useful, and happy in life—and in some humble measure the means of leading them to a higher and better life.

The Scriptures will be daily read, and the children aided to understand the sense by the interrogation of every lesson; and in their study of the same, be made acquainted with its Geography and Natural History; Oriental Manners and Customs; Laws and Polity of the Jewish Nation; History of the Hebrew Commonwealth; Evidences of Christianity; Fulfilled Prophecy; and whatever may conduce to an intelligent acquaintance with the word of God. But above all, seeking to convince the mind of the claim of God to every human heart, and the consecration of every soul to his service, will be a subject of watchful interest and ardent desire.

For prospectuses and any further particulars, apply at the establishment.

3, Streatham-place, Brixton-hill.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SCHOLASTIC DISCIPLINE AND HOME EDUCATION COMBINED.

THE REV. JAMES MIRAMS, Chishill, Essex, having happily secured the efficient services of the Rev. J. MARCHANT, as Tutor to his Sons; and having also a well-qualified and experienced Female Teacher in his Family, will be prepared: at the close of the current quarter, to receive FIVE BOARDERS, of either Sex, from Four to Fourteen years of age, to be trained, and treated in all respects as his own children.

Terms:—£16 to £25 per annum.

Particulars as to the routine of instruction, and satisfactory references as to the competency of the Teachers, and the fitness of the Advertiser to undertake the moral and spiritual supervision of youth, will be furnished upon application (P.P.) as above.

The Father or Guardian of a Family deprived of maternal care, will find this deserving of attention.

TO TAILORS.

WANTED, a FOREMAN, of unquestionable abilities, extensive practical experience, and good address. It will be useless for any but such to apply. Amount of salary a minor consideration. Apply, in the evening from 7 to half-past 8, to Mr. BARDOX, 96, New Bond-street.

THE NICOLL, REGENT-STREET AND CORNHILL.

THE NICOLL.—This is the trade mark and distinctive title given to a Patented Paletot, or Outer Coat, which, though used as a warm winter covering, can at the same time be converted into a light Walking Paletot, by simply detaching a wadded interlining, and which can be again as easily attached at the pleasure of the wearer, who in both cases will maintain an unaltered and most gentlemanly appearance.

The material corresponds in durability and excellence with that of the celebrated Registered Paletot (6 and 7 Vis, cap. 65) of Liama cloth. The Patenters of the Nicoll being the Proprietors and sole originators of both garments, the same moderate prices existing in each, and they continue to be honoured with the patronage of their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert, Prince George of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, his Grace the Duke of Wellington, and all others distinguished in rank and fashion, the Court, the Pulpit, and the Bar.

RAILWAY TRAVELLERS will perceive great convenience in its Pocket Protector, which effectually preserves from loss the railway ticket, loose cash, &c., besides a peculiar comfort for night travelling, which must be seen and worn to be appreciated. There are Agents for the sale of the above patented articles of dress in all the principal towns throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies, keeping an assortment ready for inspection. But any gentleman residing where there is no agent can promptly receive the Nicoll, &c., by enclosing (accompanied by a money order) the number of inches, or two pieces of string, describing his measurement around the chest and waist, to H. J. and D. NICOLL, 114, 116, 120, Regent-street, and 22, Cornhill, London.

DAKIN'S ROYAL PATENT COFFEE.

ON introducing this extraordinary and highly-important invention it will be necessary, in the first instance, to point out the evils and imperfections arising from all other principles of roasting and preparing coffee at present in use.

Coffee is almost universally roasted in an iron cylinder, which is turned by hand or steam power over a coke fire. The coffee is let in and out of the cylinder by means of a slide, which is the whole length of the cylinder, and which it is next to impossible to render perfectly air-tight; the consequence of this defect is, that the sulphureous and noxious fumes of the coke penetrate into the cylinder and mingle with the coffee. We will suppose, however, the cylinder containing the coffee to be placed over the fire, which is then covered in, cylinder and all, and the process of roasting to be commencing. The first evidence of this fact is the vegetable vapour which is given off by the coffee, and which vapour is more or less impregnated with gallic and malic acids, which acids, acting upon the iron, form gallates and malates with that metal. The heat continues, the vapour is condensed, and forms a most noxious fluid, which is mingling with the coffee, and by the increasing heat is again vaporized, and is assisted in its destroying work by one of the most powerful acids known; namely, by the pyroligneous acid, which is now beginning to be given off by the coffee most freely. This vicious acid continues forming with the iron the acetate thereof, and imparting the same to the coffee, which receives, in addition, a sulphureous flavour from the coke. It should be observed, that so astonishingly great is the quantity of pyroligneous acid formed, that many ounces may be collected from the roasting of a single hundred weight of the berry. The action of the pyroligneous acid upon either iron or copper cylinders is well known; with the former a compound is formed which, if not decidedly injurious to health, gives to the berry a most acrid and disagreeable flavour; whilst with the latter, the result is verdigris.

Again, by the usual roasting process, which is nothing more nor less than a species of destructive distillation, what possible chance has the aroma of this valuable berry of being properly developed? Supposing, for one moment, that it were properly developed, it is well known to be exceedingly volatile, and would quickly escape through the crevices in the slide of the cylinder; whilst the vegetable vapour, being exceedingly sluggish, and containing the vicious and noxious acids, would remain behind, giving to the coffee that cankerous, acrid, and metallic taste, that renders the infusions of this otherwise most valuable and wholesome berry a beverage avoided by the delicate, and highly injurious to the health of many who consume it.

For guarding against all these evils, and for doing away with all these long-complained of imperfections, her Most Gracious Majesty has been pleased to grant to Dakin and Co. her Royal Letters Patent.

The plan on which "Dakin's Royal Patent Coffee" is roasted and prepared is as follows:—The iron cylinder is altogether done away with, and the coffee is never, under any circumstances, allowed to come in contact with iron. A SILVER cylinder is substituted, and the heat is obtained by means of the atmospheric air passed over hot plates, by which plan, as neither the fire, nor the fumes thereof, are in any way allowed to be in contact with the cylinder, the evils arising from the sulphureous vapours of the coke mixing with the coffee are entirely avoided. The silver cylinder is so constructed, that through apertures made for the purpose, the vegetable vapour which contains the vicious acids from the coffee, is allowed to escape; whilst the apertures being closable at pleasure, are immediately closed as soon as this, the first part of the process of roasting, is accomplished. The silver cylinder then becomes air-tight, and the aroma, which otherwise would escape, is condensed on the berry, which thereby contains all its valued and inherent excellence. The Coffee, after being sufficiently roasted in a silver cylinder, and after being cooled down in a silver cooler, is ready for purchasers who buy their coffee whole; whilst the coffee that is supplied ground is pulverized between powerful stones, and for better preservation from the atmosphere is recommended to purchasers packed in glass bottles, containing two pounds each, which are corked down air-tight, and sealed with the Royal Arms.

DAKIN and Co. will have great pleasure in showing many testimonials which they have received from the most eminent physicians, surgeons, and gentlemen of the faculty, as to the beneficial effects and advantages of "Dakin's Royal Patent Coffee." The following certificate of Mr. Alfred S. Taylor, and Mr. Arthur Aikin, the great authorities on chemistry, medical

jurisprudence, and the sanitary question, will, however, no doubt be deemed conclusive:—

"We hereby certify that we have chemically examined four varieties of coffee, namely, best Mocha, Jamaica, very Fine and Good Plantation (Ceylon) Coffee, both in the raw state, and as prepared and roasted by the patent process of Messrs. Dakin. We have likewise chemically examined samples of the same varieties of coffee, roasted at the same time in the usual way, and the result of this examination is, that in delicacy of flavour, odour, and as an article of diet, the coffee prepared by Messrs. Dakin's process is, in our judgment, superior to that prepared in the ordinary way.

"We have also examined the apparatus used by Messrs. Dakin for roasting coffee, and we find that all the surfaces with which the coffee comes in contact during this process are of silver. We find, also, that great care is taken to regulate the degree of heat and the mode of its application as to render necessary a longer time and lower temperature to effect the roasting, whereby all risk of charring the berry or of producing empyreumatic oil is prevented, the separation of acid vapour is more gradual and complete, and a larger portion of aroma is retained than occurs in the usual methods of coffee roasting.

"The process of Messrs. Dakin appears to us, therefore, in a chemical view, better adapted than any yet suggested for procuring roasted coffee in a pure and wholesome form.

"ARTHUR AIKIN,
"ALFRED S. TAYLOR, F.R.S.
Lecturers on Chemistry in Guy's Hospital.

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, Aug. 9, 1848."

PRICE CURRENT OF "DAKIN'S ROYAL PATENT COFFEE."

In addition to the following, DAKIN and Co. have the best Coffees procurable from Demerara, Dominica, Malabar, Sumatra, Java, Padang, St. Domingo, Batavia, Havannah, Brazil, Bahia, Cuba, La Guayra, Porto Rico, &c.

	Per lb.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Common Coffee.....	0 9 to 0 11				
Ceylon..... Good quality.....	1 0 to 1 2				
Fine Plantation.....	1 4 to 1 6				
Berbio..... Fine to finest.....	0 10 to 1 4				
Jamaica..... Good to fine.....	0 11 to 1 4				
Very fine to finest.....	1 6 to 1 10				
Costa Rica..... A strong and good Coffee.....	1 2 to 1 6				
Mocha..... Choice old to finest aged.....	1 5 to 1 10				
SELECTED SORTS—Whole or ground.					
Common Coffee.....	0 10				
Very good and strong.....	1 2				
Very strong and full flavoured.....	1 4				
Rich and fine flavoured Coffee.....	1 6				
Particularly choice Coffee.....	1 8				

The above are also supplied in 2lb. bottles, which bottles are charged 8d. each, and the same is allowed for them when returned.

The following sorts are supplied in sealed bottles, containing two pounds each, and no charge is made for the bottles:—

	s.	d.
Two pounds of good sound Coffee, in a sealed bottle.....	2	6
Two pounds of strong and fine flavoured Coffee, in a sealed bottle.....	3	0
Two pounds of very choice and excellent Coffee, in a sealed bottle.....	3	6
Two pounds of the finest old mountain Coffee, mellow in ripeness and richness of flavour, in a sealed bottle.....	4	

DAKIN and COMPANY, Patentees, NUMBER ONE, ST PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.
Gentlemen of science, and the public generally, are respectfully invited to inspect the machinery and apparatus employed in the roasting, &c., of Dakin's Royal Patent Coffee, and to view the whole in action, and Coffee constantly roasting, &c., at the warehouses of Dakin and Co., in Shoemaker-row—within a stone's throw of Number One, where an assistant is in waiting to accompany visitors to the warehouses, and to explain the whole of the ROYAL PATENT PROCESS for roasting and preparing coffee.

CARPETS, CURTAINS, CABINET and UPHOLSTERY, FURNITURE, BEDDING, &c., of very superior quality, at exceedingly low prices; viz., the very best Brussels Carpets, 3s. 3d. per yard.
Splendid Tapestry ditto, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. per yard.
Elegant Damask for Curtains, from 9d. to 1s. 4d. per yard.
Superior Four-post Bedstead, with cornices, rings, and rods complete, 3½ guineas.
Solid Rosewood Drawing-room Chairs, stuffed, all horse hair, from 17s. 6d. to 40s.
Dining-room Chairs, all horse hair, 12s. 6d. to 25s.
Easy Chairs, in endless variety, from 30s. to 6 guineas.
Couches of superior quality, from 3½ to 7 guineas.
CHAMBER CHAIRS, from 2s. to 4s.
Japanned French Bedstead, 16s. 6d.
Mahogany ditto ditto, 3 guineas to 6 guineas.
Marble-top Wash-stand, 32s. 6d. to 5 guineas.
3-ft. Japanned Chest of Drawers, 22s. 6d.
3-ft. Mahogany ditto ditto, from 40s. to 4½ guineas.
Wool Mattresses, from 14s.
Warranted Purified Feather Beds, in linen ticks, from 3½ to 7 guineas.
Elegant Gilt Window Cornices, from 3s. to 5s. per foot.

JOHN VOLLUM,

No. 3, PAVEMENT, FINSBURY, LONDON,

Respectfully solicits the Nobility, Gentry, and Families furnishing, to an inspection of his elegant, extensive, and most superior stock of CARPETS and UPHOLSTERY FURNITURE, manufactured under his own personal superintendence, of thoroughly seasoned materials, and by first rate workmen. The striking superiority of this class of furniture over the showy, tawdry articles now so generally introduced to the public, will, upon inspection, be at once apparent to gentlemen of taste and judgment.

Separate show rooms for Bedding, an extensive stock of which is always on sale, guaranteed perfectly purified and ready for immediate use.

The Carpet Department will be found replete with a large and splendid assortment of Velvet Pile, Axminster, Turkey, Brussels, and Kidderminster; also, Hearth Rugs, Floor Cloths, &c. A choice stock of Silk and Worsted Damasks, Silk Tabourettes, Brocades, Chintzes, &c., of the most novel and recherché designs, the prices of which will be found full 20 per cent. under any other house in London.

The name of VOLLUM has stood pre-eminent for upwards of 40 years in connexion with the manufacture of first-class Furniture at moderate prices, having been established in the immediate locality in 1804.

Families waited upon with patterns and designs without charge if not approved. Detailed Catalogues, containing an accurate guide to persons commencing housekeeping, to be had upon application, or per post, gratis.

Observe JOHN VOLLUM, 3, PAVEMENT, FINSBURY, right-hand side from CITY-ROAD.

S. S. BENSON'S £4 15s. GOLD WATCHES

S.—the same movements, in silver cases, at £3 15s.—at his manufactory, 63, CORNHILL, three doors from Bishopsgate-street.—S. S. BENSON begs respectfully to inform the public that while his entire stock of gold and silver watches are marked at the lowest possible price, no watch shall be put into the hands of his customers unless it is in every respect such as can be recommended. A large and beautiful stock can be selected from. Highly-finished movements, four holes jewelled, rich gold dials, and every improvement. A written warranty for two years. A sent post-free upon receipt of Post-office or banker's order. A splendid stock of fine gold chains at their weight for sovereigns. N.B.—The large profits usually charged upon watches have induced the proprietor to manufacture the whole of his stock, and the great quantity sold enables him to make them at the above very low prices. A discount of five per cent. allowed where two or more watches are taken.—63, Cornhill.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society was held on the 21st ult. The Report by the Directors showed that the past had been, with a single exception, the most prosperous year of the Society, that 430 new policies had been issued, and that the amount of existing assurances was then above a million and a quarter.

After alluding to the flourishing condition of the branches in Glasgow and London, where a considerably larger number of policies had been opened than during the previous year, various important and beneficial resolutions were laid before the Meeting, the effect of which would be to render all policies indisputable, except on the ground of fraud, and to remove several existing causes of forfeiture.

On the motion of Robert Chambers, Esq., publisher, seconded by W. J. Duncan, Esq., Manager of the National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, the report and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Full copies of the Eleventh Annual Report, with all necessary information, may be had on application.

London Office, 13, Moorgate-street.

WILMER OWEN HARRIS, Secretary.

GUTTA PERCHA COMPANY,
PATENTERS, WHARF-ROAD, CITY-ROAD, LONDON.
It cannot now be doubted, even by the most sceptical, but that Gutta Percha must henceforward be regarded as one of the blessings of a gracious Providence, inasmuch as it affords a sure and certain protection from cold and damp feet, and thus tends to protect the body from disease and premature death. Gutta Percha soles keep the feet WARM in COLD, and DRY in WET WEATHER. They are much more durable than leather, and also cheaper. These soles may be steeped for months together in cold water, and when taken out, will be found as firm and dry as when first put in. No one whose occupation exposes him to wet and rain should be without Gutta Percha. Those who are troubled in winter with cold feet will be glad to read the following letter from the celebrated Dr. Cumming, of London:—

"Lowndes-street, November 12th.
"I have for some time worn the Gutta Percha soles, and am very happy to bear testimony to the admirable qualities of this substance, for the purpose of shoe-making, for it is not only very durable, but perfectly impervious to wet. The Gutta Percha, I find, possesses properties which render it invaluable for winter shoes. It is, compared with leather, a slow conductor of heat; the effect of this is, that the warmth of the feet is retained, however cold the surface may be on which the person stands, and that clammy dampness, so objectionable in the wear of India-rubber shoes, is entirely prevented.
JAMES C. CUMMING, M.D."

GUTTA PERCHA TUBING
being so extraordinary a conductor of sound, is now being extensively used as speaking tubes in mines, manufactories, hotels, warehouses, &c. A conversation may be distinctly carried on by means of a small Gutta Percha tube between two parties at the distance of a quarter or even half a mile from each other. This tubing may also be applied in churches and chapels for the purpose of enabling deaf persons to listen to the sermon, &c. For conveying messages from one room or building to another, or from the mast-head to the deck of a vessel, it is invaluable.

MILL BANDS.
The increasing demand for the Gutta Percha strapping for driving-bands, lathe-straps, &c., fully justifies the strong recommendations they have everywhere received. Their durability and strength—permanent contractility and uniformity of substance—their non-susceptibility of injury from contact with oils, grease, acids, alkalis, or water—and the facility with which the only joint required can be made in bands of from 200 to 300 feet long—render them superior for almost all working purposes, and decidedly economical.

PUMP BUCKETS, CLACKS, &c.
Few applications of Gutta Percha appear likely to be of such extensive use to manufacturers, engineers, &c., as the substitution of it for leather in pump-bucket valves, &c. These buckets can be had of any size or thickness without seam or joint, and as cold water will never soften them, they seldom need any repair. Many of these buckets have now been in use for several months in various manufactories, and the owners state, that nothing can exceed the satisfaction they have given.

PICTURE FRAMES.
The Gutta Percha Company having supplied HER MAJESTY the QUEEN with several elaborate Gutta Percha picture frames for Buckingham-palace (which have been highly approved by the Royal Family), fully anticipate a great demand for frames from the nobility throughout the country. In order that the picture-frame makers may not be thus injured, the Company will supply the trade with the mouldings, corner and centre pieces, &c., and allow them to make up the frames. In making this concession, the Company desire to evince the feeling they have always indulged, of being anxious, as far as possible, to aid, rather than to injure the various trades that are more or less affected by the application of Gutta Percha.
Gutta Percha soles, solution, inkstands, card trays, medals, picture frames, brackets, mouldings, window-blind cornices, vases, fire buckets, bowls, pen trays, bougies, catheters, stethoscopes, thin lining, thread, flower-pots, ear trumpets, &c. &c., may be had at the Company's Works, Wharf-road, City-road, London, or of any of their wholesale dealers in town or country.

RICHARD A. C. LOADER respectfully solicits all parties about to furnish, and requiring Furniture, to inspect his Stock, which will be found to consist of the newest designs of furniture, of the best seasoned materials, at the lowest possible prices.

Spanish mahogany easy chairs, in real morocco leather, stuffed all hair, and spring seats, with continuation mahogany mouldings to the backs, on patent castors	£ s. d.
Mahogany sweep-back chairs, with Trafalgar seats, stuffed with all best horse-hair, in hair seating, carved splat polished.....	2 12 0
Sets of six, and two elbow, mahogany roll-over top Trafalgar chairs, in hair seating.....	0 14 6
Solid rosewood cabriolet drawing-room chairs, all hair stuffing.....	5 5 0
Rosewood couch to match, with cabriolet front, spring stuffing.....	0 18 6
Solid rosewood chairs, stuffed, and covered in damask	4 17
Rosewood couch to match.....	0 13 6
Mahogany couch, in hair cloth.....	4 0 0
Ditto, all best hair, and fine Spanish mahogany.....	3 13 6
Four-foot solid mahogany loo table, French polished.....	6 6 0
Four-foot fine mahogany loo table, with star top (very elegant).....	2 12 0
Five-foot lath or sacking bottom four-post bedstead, with eight-foot mahogany pillars and cornices, or poles.....	4 14 6
Ditto, very superior.....	£5 15s. 6d.
Four-post mahogany bedstead, without cornices.....	6 16 6
Japanned French bedsteads, all sizes and colours.....	2 12 6
Superior ditto.....	1 3 6
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THE GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY; established 1837. Empowered by Special Acts of Parliament, 3rd Vict., cap. 30, and 10th Vict., cap. 1.—62, King William-street, London, and 21, St. David-street, Edinburgh.
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The Lady-day Fire Renewal Receipts are now ready, and may be had on application at the head offices of the Company, or of any of its agents throughout the country.

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THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

Liverpool, March 2nd, 1849.

ROYAL BANK BUILDINGS.—We announced on the 22nd of January, the arrival of some very promising "Chops," of the new crop of Black Tea—one of which, the Kee-Hing Chop—which we considered decidedly superior in quality to other marks, we had then purchased. This is now ready for delivery to families; and we are happy to inform our friends that the test of experience has fully ratified the opinion which we pronounced on its merits. It is acknowledged by connoisseurs to be of undeniable excellence.

Where QUALITY is thus made the primary consideration, and PRICE is fixed upon strictly economical principles, we feel confident that our own interests, as involved in the question of PROFITS, will be secured by the increasing demand which has been and must be the inevitable result of our system, so obviously based on justice and prudence.

A large proportion—probably more than two-thirds—of the first-class of Black Tea imported during the present season has proved to be very inferior in quality, though it is, at the same time, deceptive in appearance. In consequence of this fallacious resemblance to a choice commodity, many families have, no doubt, experienced much disappointment and annoyance, especially in cases where they have placed too great confidence in parties possessing little, if any, sound judgment in the selection of Tea—a department of trade which now requires more than ordinary experience, care, and skill.

The gratifying amount of success which has attended our efforts, and the recognised superiority of our Tea, have induced many dealers, (more ambitious than conscientious, and with more of assurance than of right principle) to resort to the expedient of soliciting Families in our names, but without our authority, and, in some instances, to adopt the still more delusive plan of opening shops in this and other towns, over which our Names have been ostentatiously paraded in large letters as baits to the Purchaser.

It is, however, a source of unfeigned satisfaction to us that, notwithstanding all the schemes resorted to in order to mislead the Public, the support which has been accorded to us in this New Branch of our Trade—the supply of Families—has been steadily increasing during the last nine years. This fact, while it calls for our grateful acknowledgments, affords a satisfactory proof that the public can readily discriminate between the false professions which are too often employed to push the sale of an article, and that conscientious care which looks to a permanent connexion as the chief source of a profitable business with mutual advantage.

It is therefore, only requisite for us to remark that our place of business is in the ROYAL BANK BUILDINGS, near the EXCHANGE, LIVERPOOL.

The principles upon which our business has hitherto been conducted having operated successfully in protecting the interests of the public, we again refer to those principles, as the basis upon which our system of business will continue to be carried out in future. It will be found that we steadily adhere to the following important maxims:—

First,—To afford to Families considerable advantages in Price, combined with every security as to Quality.
Secondly,—Never to permit our young men to press the sale, or recommend the quality, of any article not actually inquired for; but to let every sample of our goods rest for support upon its own intrinsic merits.

The adoption of these rules has received the stamp of public approbation. Our persevering observance of them will prove the surest guarantee that we can offer of our sincere desire to merit the unprecedented amount of support with which we have been favoured.

As complaints have been made of the inconvenience frequently experienced by families, in consequence of having to wait in giving their orders at our hitherto crowded Retail Counter, we are happy to announce that we have made arrangements with the Management of the Royal Bank, by which we shall obtain considerable addition to our front premises, with the advantage of an entrance direct from Dale-street. The necessary alterations are now in progress, and we hope to open these premises in a few weeks, with many increased facilities for the transaction of our business.

Families residing in the country may now avail themselves of the low rates of charge upon the carriage of parcels by railway, and thus obtain their supplies without any material additional expense. The charges are regulated by the various Railway Companies upon precisely proportionate scales, according to weight and distance. The facilities thus afforded by several lines which have been recently opened, will enable us to supply parties in many localities from which we have been hitherto, to some extent, excluded by the obstacles which existed to prevent the prompt delivery of goods, and by the heavy cost of transit.

It is necessary that we should state that whenever desired, we pre-pay the carriage of parcels forwarded from our Establishment, including the charge in the invoice. Some parties, with a view to attraction, indiscriminately offer to defray the carriage. It is obviously impossible that such promises can be carried into effect without inflicting ultimate disappointment on the purchaser. Whilst we avoid such unsatisfactory engagements, we take the better alternative of sending to all parts of the kingdom a superior quality of tea at a price which must tend to secure further transactions.

Attention is invited to the FINE BLACK TEA, at 4s. and 4s. 4d.; also excellent Second Qualities at 3s. to 3s. 6d., which can be well recommended to the notice of all large consumers.

THE FINE OLD MOCHA COFFEE 1s. 6d. PER POUND.
FINE COSTA RICA, 1s. 3d. PLANTATION, 11d.
ROBERT ROBERTS AND CO.,

Entrance up the Steps leading to the

BANK.

LIVERPOOL, March 2, 1849.

THE Nonconformist.

'THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.'

VOL. IX.—NEW SERIES, No. 175.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1849.

[PRICE 6d.]

CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS:—	The National Rate
Cutting the Connexion 217	Movement 237
The National Homage to Religion 217	Our Village Population 237
The Anti-state-church Movement 218	Spirit of the Press 238
History of the Church-rate Struggle in Parliament 218	Mirror of Parliament 239
Imprisonment of the Rev. James Shore 219	The Church-rate Division 232
Religious Intelligence 222	Ireland 233
Correspondence 223	Barriering a Railway 233
Foreign and Colonial News 223	Law and Police Intelligence 233
Postscript 225	Court, Official, and Personal News 234
POLITICAL:—	Births, Marriages, &c. 234
Summary 226	Money Market and Commercial Intelligence 234
	The Gazette 235
	Markets 235
	Advertisements 235

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

CUTTING THE CONNEXION.

WITH great and unfeigned respect for the Rev. Thomas Spencer, whose enlightened opinions are as creditable to his understanding as his zeal in diffusing them is to his heart, and whose letter to the Rev. Baptist Noel we noticed last week, we are compelled to confess that we can discover no great advantage in the mode of action he recommends to Churchmen, who like himself, would put an end to the great imposture of the age, for attaining the liberation of religion from State bondage. He demurs, as we have seen, to the propriety of seceding from the Church of England with a view to this object, and urges upon all his brethren who seek to put Christianity upon its proper basis—the affectionate liberality of its own disciples—to attempt the great work from within the bosom of the Establishment. Reform, he says, requires men of sterner stuff than secession—and certainly, if by the latter he means a mere abandonment of the Church, followed by no active effort for the separation of it from the State, he is right. But this, if we may judge from his *Essay*, is not the purpose of Mr. Noel. His solemn exhortation to others implies his own sense of obligation to labour for the extinction of the evil he condemns—and his profession of dissent must be interpreted, not as a precipitate retreat from an arduous enterprise, but merely as the occupying of that position from which, in his judgment, it may be most consistently prosecuted.

There is no difference between Mr. Spencer and Mr. Noel as to the end to be accomplished. There is no difference, or very little, as to the means to be employed, the toil to be endured, the obloquy to be encountered, the sacrifices to be made. Both, we apprehend, must aim at effecting the change they have in view through the medium of Parliament. Both must see the necessity, in order to success, of indoctrinating the public mind. Both, we imagine, would acknowledge the wisdom of economizing, concentrating, and organizing effort, as the likeliest means of acquiring the moral strength which the task demands. And, assuredly, both, in grappling with the powerful interests now opposed to their common object, would provoke a storm of indignant abuse, and might anticipate a most unscrupulous antagonism. Mr. Spencer's plan of warfare has this advantage—that for a season—a very short one, we think—it might possibly enlist the countenance and favour of those Churchmen who would help forward the movement, if allowed to do so without lacerating old associations, or without losing caste. Continued connexion with the Church would, perhaps, insure access to minds not otherwise to be approached, and evade the force of prejudices which, when roused, would prove all but insurmountable. As a clergyman, a man may say with authority what, when he becomes a Dissenter, would fall unheeded from his lips. Thus much we admit. But, on the other hand, the plan has serious disadvantages. Public opinion is apt to condemn men who avail themselves of the *status* given them by law, to

destroy the very law which placed them where they are. And any such attempt as that advocated by Mr. Spencer, resulting, as it infallibly would, in the extrusion from the Church of those clergymen who took part in it, would be regarded by onlookers as justifying severity for the sake of self-defence, and provoking an infliction which could not be remitted without the surrender of every pretence to ecclesiastical discipline. The struggle would take the appearance of mutiny within the lines of entrenchment—and mutineers, even when their objects are deemed praiseworthy, are seldom regarded with lively approbation.

Hitherto, we have viewed the difference between reform and secession, merely in the light of expediency. We think there is a much higher position from which to survey it. Mr. Spencer we are sure will not suspect us of underrating his judgment, or his honesty—but we submit to him whether, in the decision to which he has come, he has allowed due weight to the peculiar object of a church. As members of the State, much may be done in our name of which we disapprove—and the use of all legitimate means of prevention, or of protest, absolves us from responsibility. The question which occurs to conscience in the sphere of politics is not whether the relationship we sustain is justifiable, for we cannot escape from it, but what are the duties which that relationship imposes? As members of a church, however, the connexion is not one of necessity, but of choice, and it implies not merely a selection of an advantageous moral position, but a fellowship with the body, a recognition of it in its professed capacity, as a spiritual organization, and a sympathy with it, if not as it regards what it does, at least in respect of what it is, as an association of the disciples of Christ.

Mr. Noel—and herein we agree with him—whilst cheerfully admitting that there are many devout and truly Christian men in the Establishment, is bound by his convictions to declare, that it is not a church at all—that it not only does not fulfil the main purposes of a church, but that it is precluded the possibility of doing so by its constitution—that it is nothing more than the nation ecclesiastically considered—that it comprehends men of every creed and of every character—that, as such, it cannot reasonably pretend to be a religious institution, framed on the hypothesis of a community of faith in, and loyalty to, Jesus Christ its head—but that it is a political creation, nominally devoted to a spiritual object, and really destitute of every distinctive mark which should characterize an organized society of believing men. Now, it is difficult to discover what choice is left to a man who, whether right or wrong, has been forced upon such conclusions. If he continues to be a member of such a body, he openly acknowledges that it is a church—a spiritual community—an association with a view to religious fellowship and enterprise. Church membership is a solemn profession—and no man can profess a truth by means of an imposture—it is a communion—but no man will commune with what he regards as, on the whole, a mischievous and spiritually-fatal pretence. "There can be no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness—no communion between light and darkness."

Of course, we do not deem these remarks applicable to Mr. Spencer, whose ideas of what constitutes a church we take to be widely different from those held by Baptist Noel. But we think Mr. Spencer must admit, upon reflection, that Mr. Noel could not, with his views of what a Church of Christ is, continue a member of the Establishment. His secession is not meant simply as a protest against wrong-doing on the part of the National Church—but against its falsely assuming to be what it is not. He declines giving currency to counterfeit coin, or what he regards as such. He seems to us to have no alternative. Mr. Spencer evidently thinks he has, and a much better one—but until he explains what he understands by a church, and what, in his judgment, membership implies, we cannot see how his opinion is to be borne out. We believe him to be as con-

scientious as Mr. Noel—but we do not think his position to be equally intelligible. He is about the most far-seeing and out-spoken of State-church clergymen of whom we know anything—but, whilst doing homage to his great virtues, we are still at some loss to explain to our own satisfaction, what, of course, he can explain to his, why he did not long ago "cut the connexion."

THE NATIONAL HOMAGE TO RELIGION.

"And one man in his time plays many parts."

LORD BROUGHAM has, in our day, carried away the palm for versatility of talent, and for dexterity in vaulting from pole to pole of a political principle. Inconsistency in him, however, appears to result rather from the excess of intellectual agility than from deliberate purpose. His mind is by nature springy. It has in it too much bounce to allow of even a proximate calculation as to his whereabouts for two days together. He no sooner pitches on one conclusion than he rebounds at a sharp angle upon a very different, perchance an opposite one—and when you think to catch him there, he is very likely back at the point from which he started. When once you know the man, you cease to wonder, and almost to grieve, at his fantastic vagaries. The elasticity of a marvellously impulsive intellect, steadied by no appreciable weight of conscience, and counterbalanced by no heart, explains his wildest freaks—and you witness his advocacy, now of this doctrine, then of that, rather as a feat to entertain you than as a serious act expressive of a presiding judgment and a settled will.

Lord John Russell is anything but mercurial—most men would describe him as saturnine. He is entirely innocent of any friskiness of mind. He is as staid as any single gentlewoman—and, whatever he does, he does with all the solemnity of an ecclesiastic. And yet it would be difficult to name any character in the drama of political life which he has not played—any considerable party which he has not aspired to lead—any principle which he has not for the time being adopted. A pupil and an eulogist of Charles James Fox, he has also, in parallel circumstances, closely copied William Pitt. An infinitesimal reformer at starting, he has been within a few paces of a revolutionist, and retreated once more to the ground of finality. He forced his way into place by the leverage of an Appropriation Clause, and not long since defended the Irish Church, as possessed of nothing more than was adequate to its wants. Once a leader of the Protestant Dissenters, and a member of a cabinet which abolished church-cess in Ireland, and sought to abolish church-rates in England, he is now the most dogged opponent of every proposal for the relief of Dissenters; and whilst such men as Gladstone have advanced to the point of conceding that their claim is founded in justice, Lord John has fallen back upon the position of Sir Robert Inglis, that the imposition of church-rates is "a great national homage paid to religion."

The Whigs have long enjoyed celebrity for the cool and unblushing air with which they are wont to appropriate other people's ideas, and take to themselves the credit of them—yet it was hardly to have been expected that Lord John, in the dearth of his own inventiveness, would have been so eager to avail himself of Sir Robert Inglis's temporary absence, and, without acknowledgment, offer as his own the honourable baronet's favourite dogma in exchange for a round of High Church cheers. This, however, he was not ashamed to do, as if emulating the obsolete bigotry of the representative of Oxford University; and, in a debate remarkable for the show of liberal feeling in all other quarters, the Premier must needs volunteer the second-hand absurdity, that church-rates should continue to be enforced as a great national act of homage to religion.

We beg Sir Robert Inglis's pardon—we do him wrong. This was not his sentiment, but a miserable parody of it. Sir Robert was more sensible—he claimed Church-rates as homage to the Established Church, which, whether justifiably enforced or not, undoubtedly they are. But Lord John could not help spoiling what he borrowed—like

poor Oliver Goldsmith with the Turnham Green joke—and so he challenges for Christianity what Sir Robert only challenged for a dominant political church. Homage to religion! Aye! so the newspapers report the expression. Homage to religion! Whose religion, good my lord? What religion? Homage, according to the great lexicographer, is "service paid and fealty professed to a superior lord." Does Lord John mean to imply, then, that compulsory exactions by one sect of Christians from all others to defray the expenses of divine worship, is a service to the gospel of peace and good-will, or that authority given to a policeman to seize and sell the property of Dissenters in aid of funds exclusively devoted to the religious purposes of State Episcopalians is a profession of fealty to Him who said, "I hate robbery for burnt-offering?" Fancy the account which such men would give of themselves to the Supreme Judge, "We did for the gospel what we could. If our lives were not all that they should have been, and, personally, we failed in recommending our faith, at least we made our neighbours pay for it, and used the sword given us to wield in compelling others to maintain what our own attachment was too feeble to support." And this they call "homage to religion." This indecency, which all men of spiritual tastes are blushing to witness, they pretend to justify as a solemn profession of fealty to One who left on record this maxim—"Do unto others as you would they should do unto you." They might as well designate a round of fisticuffs in the Court, and before the very eye of their sovereign—loyalty. But, really, we are ashamed to comment upon such trash. The most humiliating punishment which could be inflicted on Lord John Russell for giving pompous and public utterance to such a stupid, as well as execrable sentiment, would be to reduce him to the necessity of explaining it.

MORE SECESSION FROM THE NATIONAL REFORMED CHURCH IN FRANCE.—Since my last communication, the religious movement, occasioned by what had occurred at the Synod of September, has made some progress. Two new secessions have taken place, in addition to the three already known. The new secessions are those of M. Krüger, pastor in the department of the Upper Alps, and M. Arnal, pastor in the department of Gard. Both these gentlemen are faithful and zealous servants of Christ, and are a valuable acquisition to our Church, which now possesses five pastors: viz.—MM. A. Boissier, Fred. Monod, B. Pozzy, Krüger, and Arnal. There is reason to hope, that from the present time to the month of May, when our Church is to be constituted, it will receive fresh accessions. The very tardy manner in which the secessions take place, one after the other, is a pledge of success; for it proves that they have been considered maturely as in the sight of God, and that they are not the result of a hasty determination, taken upon the spur of the moment. In one place, in the South, the Protestant population have begun to be interested in the movement. One of the seceding pastors was invited to explain the matter publicly to them, before large assemblies. In doing this, he has won the respect of all, and has convinced many.—*Correspondent of the Christian Times.*

THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY.—Czerski is no longer colleague of the antagonist of Arnoldi. He humbly ministers the vital truths of Christianity to his congregation at Schneidemühl, and has partial oversight of several Christian Catholic Churches. Long oppressed by poverty, in a country where the spirit of voluntary religious profession has yet to imbue its nominal adherents, and overborne by the noise and display of infidel Reformists, his labours have lately been almost unobserved in England; but it is cheering to know that he maintains his ground, still bears testimony for the gospel, and protests against the mixture of extraneous elements by the party from whom he is happily separated. Christian Catholicism is, therefore, associated with Evangelical Christianity, and shows that some gain has undoubtedly resulted to the one Catholic Church of Christ, from the schism of 1845.—*Christian Times.*

REVIVAL OF AN OLD FALLACY.—Speaking of the Church-rate debate, the *Gateshead Observer* says:—"Others of our lawmakers resisted both motion and amendment, because the rate was not a charge upon the householder, but the house—a burden which belonged to the property when it was bought. But how if the house were not bought, but built? A man builds a house, and does not get it a whit cheaper on account of the existence of Church-rates. He builds it, and nothing is paid until he occupies it, or gets some one else to occupy it. In, then, walks the collector for the rate. The occupier, a Dissenter, says, 'I repair my own place of worship, and that is enough: I should not repair yours also. Besides, I have conscientious objections to doing so.' 'Conscience? nonsense!' replies the Churchman: 'the rate is not a charge upon you, but upon the house: it was knocked down at the sale subject to this impost, and would have sold just for so much more, had it been rate-free.' A sheer fallacy, Mr. Churchman, which has been exploded times without number."

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.—Bishop Skinner has appealed his case against the Rev. Sir W. Dunbar to the House of Lords, thus tying up for some time a nice point in ecclesiastical procedure.

THE ANTISTATE-CHURCH MOVEMENT.

LAMBETH.—A public meeting of the supporters of this Association, was held, on Wednesday evening, at the British School-room, George-street, Lambeth-walk, for the purpose of adopting resolutions in furtherance of a separation of the Church from the State. Mr. H. R. Ellington took the chair, and said he regretted that the secretary had not invited the Bishop of Exeter to attend on this occasion, as he would have made an excellent chairman, and was now doing all he could to promote the objects of the Association. The Chairman concluded by reading various extracts from the work of the Hon. Baptist Noel upon the subject of Church and State, and by pointing out the necessity of increasing the subscriptions in aid of the objects of the Association. Several gentlemen (including members of the Church) addressed the meeting in support of the following resolutions, which were duly proposed and seconded:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the union of the Church with the State is a violation of individual conscience—tends to secularize the ministers of religion, and to abridge their freedom,—impedes the progress of Scriptural truth, and prejudices Christianity in the estimation of the people at large.

That this union, moreover, aggravates the bitterness of party strife, arrests the progress of needful reform, imposes an oppressive burden upon our financial resources, and presents an insuperable obstacle to the adoption by our legislators of just and healthful principles of general policy.

These resolutions having been carried, the meeting separated.

BLACKBURN.—On Wednesday evening last, says the *Preston Guardian*, a public meeting was held in the Assembly-room, Blackburn, for the purpose of promoting, by means of statement and argument, the separation between the State and Church. The Rev. F. Skinner, Presbyterian, presided on the occasion, and was supported on the platform by the Revs. C. Kirtland, R. Cameron, R. Bentley, and W. Dawson; J. Kingsley, Esq., of London, the talented advocate of the Anti-state-church Association, was also present. The room was crowded in every part, and the greatest enthusiasm was exhibited by the audience, by whom the resolutions submitted were adopted without a single dissentient, and no material objection was taken to anything that was advanced. Our contemporary publishes a pretty full report of the speeches delivered, but the length we have given the Exeter-hall meetings, prevents their insertion in our columns. Mr. Kingsley, we are told, elicited much applause from the audience.

BOLTON-LE-MOORS.—A public meeting of the Anti-state-church Association was held in the Temperance-hall, Bolton, on Thursday last, the 15th instant. The audience was very numerous, and never since Henry Vincent's lectures on "Cromwell," has there been such an enthusiastic meeting. On the platform were the Revs. D. Nimmo, C. Edwards, B. Etheridge, of Bolton; and the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, of Choubent; and in the gallery, the Rev. W. L. Brown. Mr. Daniel Haddock, tea-merchant, was called to the chair. We regret our inability to copy a report of this deeply interesting meeting from a local print, as the only one in Bolton—a rabid Church one—dismisses the meeting with six or eight lines of notice, and occupies two columns with a report of a meeting of Barkerites. The Chairman regretted that his place was not occupied by some one of higher standing, but he could not refuse thus to show his sympathy with this great movement [cheers]. Mr. Kirkland introduced his remarks by noticing the progress of the Anti-state-church Society. Ten years since no newspaper took its part. The meeting was effectively addressed by Mr. Kirkland, in a telling and humorous speech, in which he especially called attention to the fact, that eighty summonses had been issued by the Rev. Mr. Adams, for the non-payment of Easter dues and surplice fees, and held up a summons with which he had been served by his brother minister; Mr. Kingsley, who declared that such a magnificent audience was enough to compensate a man for whatever hardship he undergoes in the cause of freedom of religion; Mr. Nimmo, and Mr. Etheridge, Dissenting ministers. The last named speaker said, "Three years ago we scarce could get a meeting. We were called inexperienced youths, &c., and now we are in this large hall, before this noble assembly." The resolutions were carried with acclamation, and votes of thanks to Mr. Kingsley and the Chairman passed. The expenses of the meeting were collected on the spot, so as not to impede the Society's efforts. We have received a report of this meeting from a friend, but are sorry that, for the reason above-mentioned, we cannot make room for it.

NOTTINGHAM.—It will be remembered that, at the close of last year a meeting of the Anti-state-church Association was held at Nottingham, at which Mr. Clementson, a clergyman, was present, and spoke at such length as to prevent Mr. Burnet, who with Mr. Thompson, M.P., attended as a deputation, speaking at all. The meeting occasioned considerable excitement at the time, and as much disappointment was felt that the audience had no opportunity of hearing Mr. Burnet, it was resolved that he should be requested again to visit the town for the purpose of delivering a lecture. This he did on Thursday last; when, notwithstanding that the admission was by purchased tickets, the large and elegant Exchange room was completely filled, and by a most respectable and intelligent audience. Thomas Felkin, Esq., the chairman at the former meeting, was again called to the chair. The subject of the lecture was "A State Church Unscriptural and Impolitic," and of

the lecture itself we need say no more than that it was well calculated to produce, as it evidently did, a powerful impression on the audience; who listened from the commencement to the close with the most profound attention. At the close of the lecture, Mr. Burnet expressed his willingness to answer any questions, or to meet any objections; but this challenge was not accepted. Mr. Clementson was not present, nor were there so many Churchmen as before; but we understood that the Rev. Mr. Blakeney, who accompanied Mr. Clementson, was among the audience. Alderman Heard afterwards moved, and Alderman Herbert seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Burnet, both expressing, in strong terms, the gratification which the lecture had afforded them. The resolution was, we need not say, enthusiastically adopted; and in acknowledging it, Mr. Burnet made some allusions to the character of the previous meeting. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Carvell Williams, the secretary of the Association, who accompanied the lecturer, and who briefly urged its claims. Mr. Felkin, in reply, congratulated the meeting on having had the pleasure of hearing one of the most telling addresses ever delivered in Nottingham. He also stated that he should always be willing to render his service to the cause, undeterred by the attacks of any of the Nottingham journalists.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A number of important towns in the North of England will be visited by the Association during this and next week. Mr. Kingsley was to address meetings on Monday and the two following days at Ashton, Oldham, and Hebden Bridge. The Rev. Henry Toller, and the Secretary, visit Barnsley, Dewsbury, and Bramley, and on Friday will be joined by Mr. Kingsley, at Wakefield. On Monday, the deputation hold a meeting in the Corn Exchange, Manchester, when Richard Gardner, Esq., is expected; and during next week Messrs. Toller and Kingsley go to Leeds and Sheffield; Messrs. Brewin Grant, and Williams, to Doncaster and Pontefract; and Messrs. Kingsley and Grant to Bradford and Hull. In addition to these numerous meetings, another series is about to be commenced in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, by the Rev. S. Green, and Rev. J. Clapp.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH-RATE STRUGGLE IN PARLIAMENT.

(From the *Daily News*).

The following is the summary of the attempts that have been made in parliament to get rid of so irrational a system:—In 1833 the Irish church-rate was abolished by the 3 & 4 Geo. IV. c. 37, s. 63. The sums requisite for the purposes of the rate were to be levied by a tax on ecclesiastical temporalities. In 1834, fortified by this example, Lord Althorp brought forward a resolution, that the payment of church-rates in England and Wales should, after a certain time, cease, and that in lieu thereof £250,000 should be granted out of the land-tax. This resolution was agreed to, and Lord Althorp soon after introduced a bill to carry it out. This bill was objected to by the Dissenters on account of the charge of £250,000 on the land-tax, and was therefore allowed to drop. In 1835 Sir Robert Peel proposed a scheme for the payment of church-rates out of the consolidated fund. This measure, however, was never insisted upon, and was open to the same objection as that of Lord Althorp. In 1837, 2,328 petitions for the abolition of church-rates were laid on the table of the House of Commons. In 1837, a resolution hostile to church-rates was moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and carried by 273 against 250 votes.

On a following day in the same session Lord John Russell moved the order of the day for taking the resolution on church-rates into further consideration, when the House divided, the numbers being 287 for the resolution, and 262 against it. The bill that it was intended to found upon this resolution, was dropped, and a select committee to inquire into the mode of leasing by ecclesiastical corporations, &c., was substituted for it; which committee, owing to the demise of the crown, was not appointed till May, 1838. The committee, however, did nothing. In 1840, Mr. Duncombe moved for leave to bring in a bill to relieve Dissenters from the payment of church-rates, which was opposed by ministers, and lost by a majority of 55. In 1847, Mr. Easthope brought in a bill, which was read a first time, for the abolition of church-rates. This was stifled by the dissolution of parliament.

In the courts of law the proceedings have been marked by that vague, confused, unsatisfactory character which is the infallible result of any attempt to elicit a principle of any kind in the barbarous condition of our jurisprudence. First came a decision, confirmed on appeal, that neither the churchwardens nor any ecclesiastical authorities have power to levy and impose a rate without consent of parishioners in vestry. This principle was first laid down in an able judgment by Dr. Phillimore, and upheld successively by Lord Denman in the Queen's Bench, and Lord Chief Justice Tindal in the Exchequer Chamber.

But the genius of English proceeding could not endure a plain intelligible statement of a general principle. Evasions were sought for, recourse was had to qualifications, doubts were flung out, and opportunities of litigation suggested. The consequence was, that another case was speedily engendered under the parental wing of judicial sophistry, and it was decided that although a rate cannot be levied without the assent of the vestry, the vestry

have no choice, when repairs are needed, whether the parish church shall be repaired or not. That the obligation to provide such repairs is imperative, and, therefore, that the deliberation of the parishioners can only relate to the means by which such repairs can most effectually be provided—and as a corollary to these principles, it was held that where a majority had voted against a rate, their votes were to be considered as flung away, and the rate supported by the minority was binding, and might be levied by distress and imprisonment; this, too, although the rate in fact never was voted at all by the minority, but an amendment against church-rates had closed the proceedings. Against this decision an appeal is now pending in the Exchequer Chamber. The objections to it are numerous. Can a body be said to deliberate who are forced to come to a particular decision? Have the vestry any volition or not? If they have, where is the line to be drawn in its exercise? Who is to judge of the necessity of repairs? Who is to decide the scale upon which they are to be made? If the majority of the vestry is to decide these points, it is clear that they make the obligation insisted upon nominal. If it is not, calling them together is a mockery. In all probability, however, the decision of the Exchequer Chamber, thanks to our admirable system of jurisprudence, will be founded exclusively on some technical point, some of those miserable questions of pleading so dear to our judges, or some insignificant cavil—the real matter in dispute will remain undecided, and all of the expense and heart-burning, and machinery of this protracted litigation, will be flung away. Such at least in 99 cases out of a hundred is the result of judicial investigation, created under the system of the Plantagenets, and revived by the modern Court of Exchequer.

Meanwhile, persecution is not idle. Dissenters are rated; and, on their refusal to pay what they think themselves in conscience bound to withhold, are exposed to penalties varying with the disposition of their antagonists. Sometimes their goods are seized—sometimes, where the desire to persecute is strong, they are indicted under the wretched quibble of disobeying a magistrate's order, and flung into prison, to the delight of passionate or malignant blockheads, and the mortification of all judicious and peace-loving citizens. James Bidwell was sentenced to 'six months' imprisonment for non-payment of a rate of 16s., Mr. John Simonds to a week's incarceration for non-payment of 6d. Proceedings have been taken in the ecclesiastical courts against parishioners for refusing to make a sufficient rate. In short, every principle that ought to prevail in legislation has been, as usual, trampled upon.

It is high time that the Government should interfere to put a stop to an evil of such magnitude, and relieve a large portion of the community from hardships which they keenly feel, and which history shows us they may one day bitterly resent. To delay reform to the last moment is ungracious and impolitic. It is then attributed to necessity, not to a sense of what is right, or a desire of what is useful; and of all other people, those who are attached to the Established Church have, if they are not blind to their own welfare, the deepest interest in altering a system which makes that institution a mark for much vehement and well-merited animosity.

MR. SHORE IN GAOL.—Mr. Shore has been visited in the course of the week by many gentlemen, including some independent clergymen, not of the "inferior" sort certainly, who have had the courage to brave episcopal wrath by visiting the episcopal victim in his dungeon. Sir Culling Eardley Eardley has also been among the visitors. A warm sympathy for Mr. Shore has been everywhere displayed throughout the country. Preliminary meetings have been held in various places to organize a proper demonstration of public feeling against this atrocious outrage upon religious liberty; and the reckless assertions of the episcopal party would seem to indicate the uneasiness which prevails at their head quarters. Great pains are taken everywhere by them to misrepresent the fact, and to make it appear that Mr. Shore is "only in for a small matter of money"—and that there is no principle involved in the incarceration. That small matter of money is a modicum of the costs which have been incurred to prohibit him from preaching; and if that small matter of money were paid, he would still be liable to another little bill of costs for a former stage of the same discreditable proceedings; and then when bill number two had been paid, he would still be liable to be taken under a monition of the Ecclesiastical Court, and imprisoned for the term of his natural life for having preached since he was admonished not to preach—unless he would promise "never" to offend in like manner again. This is the actual position in which the tender mercies of Bishop Phillpotts have placed him.—*Western Times*.

LEEDS WORKHOUSE CHAPLAINCY.—At the meeting of the board of guardians of the township of Leeds, on Wednesday, a letter from the vicar of Leeds was read, stating that at a meeting of the clergy on Tuesday, they had agreed that they would undertake the duties of the workhouse. The letter intimated that it was no part of the duty of the chaplain to read the prayers daily, morning and evening, had been proposed, but that the clergy would undertake that duty until some communication had been received from the Poor-law Board on the subject. The offer of the clergy was therefore accepted, on a division, by seven to four, two guardians being neutral.—*Leeds Mercury*.

It is easy to perceive that church-rates are now tolerated only because they form a part of a great system which nobody is yet powerful enough to reform or to destroy.—*Daily News*.

IMPRISONMENT OF THE REV. JAMES SHORE.

GREAT MEETING AT EXETER HALL.

A Public Meeting was held at Exeter-hall yesterday (March 20), to consider what measures it was advisable to adopt in consequence of the arrest and imprisonment of the Rev. James Shore at the suit of the Bishop of Exeter. The hour appointed for taking the chair was eleven o'clock, but long anterior to it the large hall was crowded by a most respectable audience, who throughout the proceedings manifested the deepest interest in them. On the platform we observed Earl Ducie; the Rev. Messrs. Stoddart and Craig, clergymen; the Rev. Drs. Campbell, Leifchild, Henderson, Cox, Carlisle, Ferguson, and Burns; the Rev. Messrs. Hinton, Mannering, Allon, Eckett, Prout, Bevan, Godkin, Brock, Seaborne, Bakewell, Baptist Noel, D. Thomas, Curwen, Kennedy, Sherman, Barrett (Royston), Rose, Richardson, Owen, Wilkinson (from Jamaica), Ainalie, Bean, Burnet, Binney, Thoresby, Herschel, &c. &c.; Messrs. Swaine, Griffin, Edwards, Bidgood, Potter, W. A. Hankey, C. Gilpin, &c.

CHARLES LUSHINGTON, Esq., M.P., on taking the chair, said: When I inform you that I only received the invitation to attend here this morning at half-past eight o'clock last night, and that I had then to complete my parliamentary duties and to hasten to my distant home, snatch a few restricted hours of sleep, and then hurry hither for the purpose of fulfilling my promise, I think I am entitled to appeal to your forbearance; and I am sure that, on this great and important occasion, you will be prepared to grant me that indulgence [cheers]. I feel, at all times, very incompetent to address large public meetings like the present in that strain of eloquence,—in that oratorical, argumentative, and brilliant manner to which you are accustomed in the addresses of my reverend friends whom I see around me; on the present occasion I deeply feel that deficiency. But I will not plead ignorance of the object for which you have met. I had the satisfaction, a few nights ago, of attending a meeting, the subject of which was the same as that which now calls us together, in Wycliffe Chapel, St. George's-in-the-East. That edifice was piled up to the very ceiling, and the execration of the miserable treatment of the Rev. Mr. Shore was loud and unanimous. I understand that Mr. Shore, feeling conscientious scruples to preach in the Established Church, officiated at a chapel for Dissenters, and, for doing so, he caused the censure of his ecclesiastical superior. In consequence of that censure, which he felt obliged conscientiously to disregard, he was cited before the Ecclesiastical Courts, and, to the disgrace of those who were concerned,—to the disgrace of the enlightened age in which we live,—he has been incarcerated in Exeter Gaol, for exercising the right of every Christian to speak his own sentiments. I certainly, as I said at the beginning of my address, have not those powers which belong to my friends around me; but, if I had their strength of language, their ability to clothe my thoughts and my feelings in the expressions which they know so well how to wield, I would testify against this act, I would stand up against those iron-bound laws and those steel-hearted prelates—[loud cheers]—and extend throughout the length and breadth of the land my disapprobation of those proceedings [cheers]. It was but the other day, that, in the House of Commons, a bill for the abolishing of this execrable statute was brought in. It has passed through the second reading; its principle has been adopted, and, therefore, we may look upon it as safe in that part of the legislature. But it has yet to pass through the ordeal of the House of Lords [cheers]. It is to be judged of by those who have no right to sit there—[loud applause]—who are interested in the matter, who forget the simplicity of Christianity in their love of power. I have the greatest apprehension regarding the fate of the enactment; but I will say this, if that bill is thrown out in the Chamber to which I allude, the disapprobation of every good man, the execration of every person in the country not a bigot, will follow, and stigmatize that act. During the stages of the bill through the House of Commons, you may rely on my vigilance to prevent its being mutilated; and, moreover, I hope we shall be able to get a clause introduced that will operate so as to relieve Mr. Shore, the victim to whom I have been alluding, from the tyranny to which he is exposed [cheers]. With regard to the expenses and pecuniary inconveniences to which he has been subjected, I am sure it will not be thought of for a moment, because thousands upon thousands will come forward to assist him [cheers]. You will now allow me to call upon one far more competent to address you than myself. I hope you will accept this expression of my concurrence in the manifestation of your enthusiastic love of civil and religious liberty [loud cheers].

The Rev. J. H. HINTON then offered a very solemn and impressive prayer.

The Rev. T. BINNEY then rose to propose the first resolution:—

That this meeting having fully considered the case, and the prosecution and the imprisonment of the Rev. James Shore, affirm that he has strong claim to the cordial sympathy of all the friends of civil and religious liberty, and resolve that an affectionate address from this meeting, signed by the Chairman and the Committee, be presented to him at Exeter, by such deputation as the Committee shall appoint."

I can hardly tell how it happens that I have been brought forward thus early, and thus prominently, in this matter; but here I am, and, with your assistance—which means as much quietness as I can obtain—I will endeavour to discharge my duty. I do not come here as a partisan of Dissent, or as a mere partisan or advocate of James Shore [hear, hear]—I want to look at James Shore and Henry of Exeter, Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, Lord Denman, and the members of the Privy Council, as so many institutions, and just see what it is that they have

wrought out, and brought before the minds of the people of England, as now understood to be the law thereof [cheers]. I have a most unfortunate tendency of mind, when I am writing, when I am preaching, or going through any argument, to feel that there is an adversary looking over my shoulder. When writing an argument, my mind is always trying to answer it, and that is a very bad habit for an advocate [hear, hear]. You state in the resolution, that you feel considerably for the case of Mr. Shore, and I am going to try to help you to pass that resolution with honour and honesty [hear, hear]. As it is very possible that there may be here the adversaries of Mr. Shore—those who take altogether opposite views from us, and who will be poring over the weak points and objections—I beg to say that I have no objection to those weak points being noticed, because it is not merely Mr. Shore, or what Mr. Shore has done; and I am not bound to prove that Mr. Shore was right in every possible step he took. I am to look at the result which Mr. Shore—somehow or other, whether rightly or wrongly—has contrived to bring out as the conditions of the law. I do not like to blink the points, lest our adversaries might think that we were ignorant of the real merits of the case, and merely took up the subject with a party object. I do not mean to have such an imputation laid against me, and whether right or wrong in the way I shall put the case, I shall lay it fully and honestly before you, weak points and all [hear, hear]. Mr. Shore is a deacon and priest of the Church of England. He proceeded to priestly orders in 1829. He was curate of the parish of Berry Pomeroy, in the Archdeaconry of Totness, the diocese of Exeter, and the province of Canterbury. He was curate of this parish, under the Rev. Mr. Edwards, the vicar, from the time he became a priest, in 1829, when he was ordained by the predecessor of the Bishop, Henry, who came into the see in 1830. Mr. Shore continued the curate of this parish to 1832, when the Duke of Somerset built a chapel at Bridgetown, in the same parish, which was licensed for Episcopalian worship, but was not consecrated. There is a strong point in this circumstance. The license might be at any time withdrawn by ecclesiastical authority, and the building secularised, or the proprietor of the property might at any time secularise it himself. In coming here I passed an Episcopalian chapel, on which there was a notice—"The lease of this chapel to be sold." That building was once a Dissenting chapel. It then became Episcopalian, is now in the market, and may be a Dissenting chapel again [cheers]. In Chapel-street, Paddington, there is a prison-looking place going to ruins, which was formerly an Episcopalian chapel, in which the Rev. Basil Wood officiated. Episcopalian chapels not being consecrated, and thus brought within the sacred enclosure of the Church, may be turned into assembly-rooms, badsars, theatres, shops, or anything else which the proprietor pleases, and surely they may be changed into Nonconformist meeting-houses [cheers]. If Mr. Noel's chapel had been his own property, he could have sold it to be for a meeting-house, and I could have gone and preached there. If he chooses to leave the Establishment, and go there and preach Christ's gospel himself, why should he not have power to do that as well as me? [cheers.] When the chapel in which Mr. Shore ministered was built, Mr. Edwards, the vicar, gave Mr. Shore the nomination, the Bishop licensed it, and he entered upon his duties. In 1834 the Vicar died, and Mr. Brown succeeded him. No fresh nomination was required; Mr. Shore was not informed that he ought to be nominated again; the Bishop did not apprise him, by any official act, that he continued him in the chapel; but one incumbent died, another succeeded him, and Mr. Shore retained his position for nine years afterwards. Now, duration as to our consciousness is measured, not by the number of years, but by the thoughts, the events, the stirring facts, the marvellous things that may fix upon our memory; and in proportion as these things accumulate in a short time, a short time may appear long. Nine years, however, is a very long time anywhere; but in the diocese of Exeter it is a little eternity [laughter and cheers]. There is ample room in that time for a great many things to be said and done in that diocese which I do not choose more particularly to characterize. In 1843 Mr. Brown exchanged livings with Mr. Cousens; and when that gentleman came to the vicarage, there was a sort of unveiling of the Apocalypse of the Diocesan [laughter]. Many of the clergy in the diocese wondered at what they saw and heard; but light soon beamed upon them with respect to that system which the Bishop embodied. When Mr. Cousens was expected to come into the vicarage, the Bishop wrote to Mr. Shore to state what he had not done before; namely, that he should expect a fresh nomination, otherwise he could not continue him as minister of the chapel. Mr. Shore replied, that he should attend to the suggestion. Mr. Cousens arrived on Saturday, the 14th of October, and on the following Monday morning, Mr. Shore waited upon him, and asked for the nomination. Mr. Shore, speaking of it said:—"Mr. Cousens frankly told me that the matter was out of his hands, and he had engaged with the Bishop not to give me the nomination [loud cries of 'Hear, hear!'] He also told me, and I quote these words from a letter which I wrote to the Bishop, and which the Bishop has not denied that I wrote to him,—'Mr. Cousens told me that your lordship thought fit to communicate to him such an impression respecting me, that he said it was utterly impossible for him as an honest man, with any regard to his character, to nominate me. If he did so, it would only make him ridiculous and contemptible, as your lordship would not license him!'" That was the private understanding between the Bishop and Mr. Cousens, while he was writing to Mr. Shore to tell him to get a nomination from Mr. Cousens [loud cries of "Hear, hear!"] "This, then," says Mr. Shore, "was my position. I have two letters from the Bishop urging me to get the nomination, and yet the Bishop knew that Mr. Cousens had engaged with him not to give it me" [sensation]. But stop, that is not all. Mr. Shore adds, "On the very day after I applied to Mr. Cousens, I had a letter from the Bishop in the following words:—'Having in vain waited in expectation of hearing from Mr. Cousens, that he had determined to give you a nomination, I am bound to consider you as not having his sanction for officiating in the parish of Berry Pomeroy; therefore, I am also bound to forbid you continuing to perform any clerical offices within my diocese.'" [cries of "Shame!"] The Bishop does not wait to hear from Mr. Cousens the result of an interview with Mr. Shore; he does not wait to hear from Mr. Shore the result of that interview. Mr. Cousens only came into his residence on the Saturday; Mr. Shore called upon him on the Monday

poor Oliver Goldsmith with the Turnham Green joke—and so he challenges for Christianity what Sir Robert only challenged for a dominant political church. Homage to religion! Aye! so the newspapers report the expression. Homage to religion! Whose religion, good my lord? What religion? Homage, according to the great lexicographer, is "service paid and fealty professed to a superior lord." Does Lord John mean to imply, then, that compulsory exactions by one sect of Christians from all others to defray the expenses of divine worship, is a service to the gospel of peace and good-will, or that authority given to a policeman to seize and sell the property of Dissenters in aid of funds exclusively devoted to the religious purposes of State Episcopalians is a profession of fealty to Him who said, "I hate robbery for burnt-offering?" Fancy the account which such men would give of themselves to the Supreme Judge. "We did for the gospel what we could. If our lives were not all that they should have been, and, personally, we failed in recommending our faith, at least we made our neighbours pay for it, and used the sword given us to wield in compelling others to maintain what our own attachment was too feeble to support." And this they call "homage to religion." This indecency, which all men of spiritual tastes are blushing to witness, they pretend to justify as a solemn profession of fealty to One who left on record this maxim—"Do unto others as you would they should do unto you!" They might as well designate a round of fisticuffs in the Court, and before the very eye of their sovereign—loyalty. But, really, we are ashamed to comment upon such trash. The most humiliating punishment which could be inflicted on Lord John Russell for giving pompous and public utterance to such a stupid, as well as execrable sentiment, would be to reduce him to the necessity of explaining it.

MORE SECESSION FROM THE NATIONAL REFORMED CHURCH IN FRANCE.—Since my last communication, the religious movement, occasioned by what had occurred at the Synod of September, has made some progress. Two new secessions have taken place, in addition to the three already known. The new secessions are those of M. Krüger, pastor in the department of the Upper Alps, and M. Arnal, pastor in the department of Gard. Both these gentlemen are faithful and zealous servants of Christ, and are a valuable acquisition to our Church, which now possesses five pastors: viz.—MM. A. Boissier, Fred. Monod, B. Pozzy, Krüger, and Arnal. There is reason to hope, that from the present time to the month of May, when our Church is to be constituted, it will receive fresh accessions. The very tardy manner in which the secessions take place, one after the other, is a pledge of success; for it proves that they have been considered maturely as in the sight of God, and that they are not the result of a hasty determination, taken upon the spur of the moment. In one place, in the South, the Protestant population have begun to be interested in the movement. One of the seceding pastors was invited to explain the matter publicly to them, before large assemblies. In doing this, he has won the respect of all, and has convinced many.—*Correspondent of the Christian Times.*

THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY.—Czerski is no longer colleague of the antagonist of Arnoldi. He humbly ministers the vital truths of Christianity to his congregation at Schneidemühl, and has partial oversight of several Christian Catholic Churches. Long oppressed by poverty, in a country where the spirit of voluntary religious profession has yet to imbue its nominal adherents, and overborne by the noise and display of infidel Reformists, his labours have lately been almost unobserved in England; but it is cheering to know that he maintains his ground, still bears testimony for the gospel, and protests against the mixture of extraneous elements by the party from whom he is happily separated. Christian Catholicism is, therefore, associated with Evangelical Christianity, and shows that some gain has undoubtedly resulted to the one Catholic Church of Christ, from the schism of 1845.—*Christian Times.*

REVIVAL OF AN OLD FALLACY.—Speaking of the Church-rate debate, the *Gateshead Observer* says:—"Others of our lawmakers resisted both motion and amendment, because the rate was not a charge upon the householder, but the house—a burden which belonged to the property when it was bought. But how if the house were not bought, but built? A man builds a house, and does not get it a whit cheaper on account of the existence of Church-rates. He builds it, and nothing is paid until he occupies it, or gets some one else to occupy it. In, then, walks the collector for the rate. The occupier, a Dissenter, says, 'I repair my own place of worship, and that is enough: I should not repair yours also. Besides, I have conscientious objections to doing so.' 'Conscience? nonsense!' replies the Churchman: 'the rate is not a charge upon you, but upon the house: it was knocked down at the sale subject to this impost, and would have sold just for so much more, had it been rate-free.' A sheer fallacy, Mr. Churchman, which has been exploded times without number."

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.—Bishop Skinner has appealed his case against the Rev. Sir W. Dunbar to the House of Lords, thus tying up for some time a nice point in ecclesiastical procedure.

THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH MOVEMENT.

LAMBETH.—A public meeting of the supporters of this Association, was held, on Wednesday evening, at the British School-room, George-street, Lambeth-walk, for the purpose of adopting resolutions in furtherance of a separation of the Church from the State. Mr. H. R. Ellington took the chair, and said he regretted that the secretary had not invited the Bishop of Exeter to attend on this occasion, as he would have made an excellent chairman, and was now doing all he could to promote the objects of the Association. The Chairman concluded by reading various extracts from the work of the Hon. Baptist Noel upon the subject of Church and State, and by pointing out the necessity of increasing the subscriptions in aid of the objects of the Association. Several gentlemen (including members of the Church) addressed the meeting in support of the following resolutions, which were duly proposed and seconded:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the union of the Church with the State is a violation of individual conscience—tends to secularize the ministers of religion, and to abridge their freedom,—impedes the progress of Scriptural truth, and prejudices Christianity in the estimation of the people at large.

That this union, moreover, aggravates the bitterness of party strife, arrests the progress of needful reform, imposes an oppressive burden upon our financial resources, and presents an insuperable obstacle to the adoption by our legislators of just and healthful principles of general policy.

These resolutions having been carried, the meeting separated.

BLACKBURN.—On Wednesday evening last, says the *Preston Guardian*, a public meeting was held in the Assembly-room, Blackburn, for the purpose of promoting, by means of statement and argument, the separation between the State and Church. The Rev. F. Skinner, Presbyterian, presided on the occasion, and was supported on the platform by the Revs. C. Kirtland, R. Cameron, R. Bentley, and W. Dawson; J. Kingsley, Esq., of London, the talented advocate of the Anti-state-church Association, was also present. The room was crowded in every part, and the greatest enthusiasm was exhibited by the audience, by whom the resolutions submitted were adopted without a single dissenter, and no material objection was taken to anything that was advanced. Our contemporary publishes a pretty full report of the speeches delivered, but the length we have given the Exeter-hall meetings, prevents their insertion in our columns. Mr. Kingsley, we are told, elicited much applause from the audience.

BOLTON-LE-MOORS.—A public meeting of the Anti-state-church Association was held in the Temperance-hall, Bolton, on Thursday last, the 15th instant. The audience was very numerous, and never since Henry Vincent's lectures on "Cromwell," has there been such an enthusiastic meeting. On the platform were the Revs. D. Nimmo, C. Edwards, B. Etheridge, of Bolton; and the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, of Choubent; and in the gallery, the Rev. W. L. Brown. Mr. Daniel Haddock, tea-merchant, was called to the chair. We regret our inability to copy a report of this deeply interesting meeting from a local print, as the only one in Bolton—a rabid Church one—dismisses the meeting with six or eight lines of notice, and occupies two columns with a report of a meeting of Barkerites. The Chairman regretted that his place was not occupied by some one of higher standing, but he could not refuse thus to show his sympathy with this great movement [cheers]. Mr. Kirkland introduced his remarks by noticing the progress of the Anti-state-church Society. Ten years since no newspaper took its part. The meeting was effectively addressed by Mr. Kirkland, in a telling and humorous speech, in which he especially called attention to the fact, that eighty summonses had been issued by the Rev. Mr. Adams, for the non-payment of Easter dues and surplice fees, and held up a summons with which he had been served by his brother minister; Mr. Kingsley, who declared that such a magnificent audience was enough to compensate a man for whatever hardship he undergoes in the cause of freedom of religion; Mr. Nimmo, and Mr. Etheridge, Dissenting ministers. The last named speaker said, "Three years ago we scarce could get a meeting. We were called inexperienced youths, &c., and now we are in this large hall, before this noble assembly." The resolutions were carried with acclamation, and votes of thanks to Mr. Kingsley and the Chairman passed. The expenses of the meeting were collected on the spot, so as not to impede the Society's efforts. We have received a report of this meeting from a friend, but are sorry that, for the reason above-mentioned, we cannot make room for it.

NOTTINGHAM.—It will be remembered that, at the close of last year a meeting of the Anti-state-church Association was held at Nottingham, at which Mr. Clementson, a clergyman, was present, and spoke at such length as to prevent Mr. Burnet, who with Mr. Thompson, M.P., attended as a deputation, speaking at all. The meeting occasioned considerable excitement at the time, and as much disappointment was felt that the audience had no opportunity of hearing Mr. Burnet, it was resolved that he should be requested again to visit the town for the purpose of delivering a lecture. This he did on Thursday last; when, notwithstanding that the admission was by purchased tickets, the large and elegant Exchange room was completely filled, and by a most respectable and intelligent audience. Thomas Felkin, Esq., the chairman at the former meeting, was again called to the chair. The subject of the lecture was "A State Church Unscriptural and Impolitic," and of

the lecture itself we need say no more than that it was well calculated to produce, as it evidently did, a powerful impression on the audience; who listened from the commencement to the close with the most profound attention. At the close of the lecture, Mr. Burnet expressed his willingness to answer any questions, or to meet any objections; but this challenge was not accepted. Mr. Clementson was not present, nor were there so many Churchmen as before; but we understood that the Rev. Mr. Blakeney, who accompanied Mr. Clementson, was among the audience. Alderman Heard afterwards moved, and Alderman Herbert seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Burnet, both expressing, in strong terms, the gratification which the lecture had afforded them. The resolution was, we need not say, enthusiastically adopted; and in acknowledging it, Mr. Burnet made some allusions to the character of the previous meeting. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Carvell Williams, the secretary of the Association, who accompanied the lecturer, and who briefly urged its claims. Mr. Felkin, in reply, congratulated the meeting on having had the pleasure of hearing one of the most telling addresses ever delivered in Nottingham. He also stated that he should always be willing to render his service to the cause, undeterred by the attacks of any of the Nottingham journalists.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A number of important towns in the North of England will be visited by the Association during this and next week. Mr. Kingsley was to address meetings on Monday and the two following days at Ashton, Oldham, and Hebdon Bridge. The Rev. Henry Toller, and the Secretary, visit Barnsley, Dewsbury, and Bramley, and on Friday will be joined by Mr. Kingsley, at Wakefield. On Monday, the deputation hold a meeting in the Corn Exchange, Manchester, when Richard Gardner, Esq., is expected; and during next week Messrs. Toller and Kingsley go to Leeds and Sheffield; Messrs. Brewin Grant, and Williams, to Doncaster and Pontefract; and Messrs. Kingsley and Grant to Bradford and Hull. In addition to these numerous meetings, another series is about to be commenced in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, by the Rev. S. Green, and Rev. J. Clapp.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH-RATE STRUGGLE IN PARLIAMENT.

(From the *Daily News*.)

The following is the summary of the attempts that have been made in parliament to get rid of so irrational a system:—In 1833 the Irish church-rate was abolished by the 3 & 4 Geo. IV. c. 37, s. 63. The sums requisite for the purposes of the rate were to be levied by a tax on ecclesiastical temporalities. In 1834, fortified by this example, Lord Althorp brought forward a resolution, that the payment of church-rates in England and Wales should, after a certain time, cease, and that in lieu thereof £250,000 should be granted out of the land-tax. This resolution was agreed to, and Lord Althorp soon after introduced a bill to carry it out. This bill was objected to by the Dissenters on account of the charge of £250,000 on the land-tax, and was therefore allowed to drop. In 1835 Sir Robert Peel proposed a scheme for the payment of church-rates out of the consolidated fund. This measure, however, was never insisted upon, and was open to the same objection as that of Lord Althorp. In 1837, 2,328 petitions for the abolition of church-rates were laid on the table of the House of Commons. In 1837, a resolution hostile to church-rates was moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and carried by 273 against 250 votes.

On a following day in the same session Lord John Russell moved the order of the day for taking the resolution on church-rates into farther consideration, when the House divided, the numbers being 287 for the resolution, and 262 against it. The bill that it was intended to found upon this resolution, was dropped, and a select committee to inquire into the mode of leasing by ecclesiastical corporations, &c., was substituted for it; which committee, owing to the demise of the crown, was not appointed till May, 1838. The committee, however, did nothing. In 1840, Mr. Duncombe moved for leave to bring in a bill to relieve Dissenters from the payment of church-rates, which was opposed by ministers, and lost by a majority of 55. In 1847, Mr. Easthope brought in a bill, which was read a first time, for the abolition of church-rates. This was stifled by the dissolution of parliament.

In the courts of law the proceedings have been marked by that vague, confused, unsatisfactory character which is the infallible result of any attempt to elicit a principle of any kind in the barbarous condition of our jurisprudence. First came a decision, confirmed on appeal, that neither the churchwardens nor any ecclesiastical authorities have power to levy and impose a rate without consent of parishioners in vestry. This principle was first laid down in an able judgment by Dr. Phillimore, and upheld successively by Lord Denman in the Queen's Bench, and Lord Chief Justice Tindal in the Exchequer Chamber.

But the genius of English proceeding could not endure a plain intelligible statement of a general principle. Evasions were sought for, recourse was had to qualifications, doubts were flung out, and opportunities of litigation suggested. The consequence was, that another case was speedily engendered under the parental wing of judicial sophistry, and it was decided that although a rate cannot be levied without the assent of the vestry, the vestry

have no choice, when repairs are needed, whether the parish church shall be repaired or not. That the obligation to provide such repairs is imperative, and, therefore, that the deliberation of the parishioners can only relate to the means by which such repairs can most effectually be provided—and as a corollary to these principles, it was held that where a majority had voted against a rate, their votes were to be considered as flung away, and the rate supported by the minority was binding, and might be levied by distress and imprisonment; this, too, although the rate in fact never was voted at all by the minority, but an amendment against church-rates had closed the proceedings. Against this decision an appeal is now pending in the Exchequer Chamber. The objections to it are numerous. Can a body be said to deliberate who are forced to come to a particular decision? Have the vestry any volition or not? If they have, where is the line to be drawn in its exercise? Who is to judge of the necessity of repairs? Who is to decide the scale upon which they are to be made? If the majority of the vestry is to decide these points, it is clear that they make the obligation insisted upon nominal. If it is not, calling them together is a mockery. In all probability, however, the decision of the Exchequer Chamber, thanks to our admirable system of jurisprudence, will be founded exclusively on some technical point, some of those miserable questions of pleading so dear to our judges, or some insignificant cavil—the real matter in dispute will remain undecided, and all of the expense and heart-burning, and machinery of this protracted litigation, will be flung away. Such at least in 99 cases out of a hundred is the result of judicial investigation, created under the system of the *Plaintiffs*, and revived by the modern Court of Exchequer.

Meanwhile, persecution is not idle. Dissenters are rated; and, on their refusal to pay what they think themselves in conscience bound to withhold, are exposed to penalties varying with the disposition of their antagonists. Sometimes their goods are seized—sometimes, where the desire to persecute is strong, they are indicted under the wretched quibble of disobeying a magistrate's order, and flung into prison, to the delight of passionate or malignant blockheads, and the mortification of all judicious and peace-loving citizens. James Bidwell was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for non-payment of a rate of 16s., Mr. John Simonds to a week's incarceration for non-payment of 5d. Proceedings have been taken in the ecclesiastical courts against parishioners for refusing to make a sufficient rate. In short, every principle that ought to prevail in legislation has been, as usual, trampled upon.

It is high time that the Government should interfere to put a stop to an evil of such magnitude, and relieve a large portion of the community from hardships which they keenly feel, and which history shows us they may one day bitterly resent. To delay reform to the last moment is ungracious and impolitic. It is then attributed to necessity, not to a sense of what is right, or a desire of what is useful; and of all other people, those who are attached to the Established Church have, if they are not blind to their own welfare, the deepest interest in altering a system which makes that institution a mark for much vehement and well-merited animosity.

MR. SHORE IN GAOL.—Mr. Shore has been visited in the course of the week by many gentlemen, including some independent clergymen, not of the "inferior" sort certainly, who have had the courage to brave episcopal wrath by visiting the episcopal victim in his dungeon. Sir Culling Eardley Eardley has also been among the visitors. A warm sympathy for Mr. Shore has been everywhere displayed throughout the country. Preliminary meetings have been held in various places to organize a proper demonstration of public feeling against this atrocious outrage upon religious liberty; and the reckless assertions of the episcopal party would seem to indicate the uneasiness which prevails at their head quarters. Great pains are taken everywhere by them to misrepresent the fact, and to make it appear that Mr. Shore is "only in for a small matter of money"—and that there is no principle involved in the incarceration. That small matter of money is a modicum of the costs which have been incurred to prohibit him from preaching; and if that small matter of money were paid, he would still be liable to another little bill of costs for a former stage of the same discreditable proceedings; and then when bill number two had been paid, he would still be liable to be taken under a monition of the Ecclesiastical Court, and imprisoned for the term of his natural life for having preached since he was admonished not to preach—unless he would promise "never" to offend in like manner again. This is the actual position in which the tender mercies of Bishop Phillips have placed him.—*Western Times*.

LEEDS WORKHOUSE CHAPLAINCY.—At the meeting of the board of guardians of the township of Leeds, on Wednesday, a letter from the vicar of Leeds was read, stating that at a meeting of the clergy on Tuesday, they had agreed that they would undertake the duties of the workhouse. The letter intimated that it was no part of the duty of the chaplain to read the prayers daily, morning and evening, had been proposed, but that the clergy would undertake that duty until some communication had been received from the Poor-law Board on the subject. The offer of the clergy was therefore accepted, on a division, by seven to four, two guardians being neutral.—*Leeds Mercury*.

It is easy to perceive that church-rates are now tolerated only because they form a part of a great system which nobody is yet powerful enough to reform or to destroy.—*Daily News*.

IMPRISONMENT OF THE REV. JAMES SHORE.

GREAT MEETING AT EXETER HALL.

A Public Meeting was held at Exeter-hall yesterday (March 20), to consider what measures it was advisable to adopt in consequence of the arrest and imprisonment of the Rev. James Shore at the suit of the Bishop of Exeter. The hour appointed for taking the chair was eleven o'clock, but long anterior to it the large hall was crowded by a most respectable audience, who throughout the proceedings manifested the deepest interest in them. On the platform we observed Earl Ducie; the Rev. Messrs. Stoddart and Craig, clergymen; the Rev. Drs. Campbell, Leifchild, Henderson, Cox, Carlisle, Ferguson, and Burns; the Rev. Messrs. Hinton, Mannering, Allon, Eckett, Prout, Bevan, Godkin, Brock, Seaborne, Bakewell, Baptist Noel, D. Thomas, Curwen, Kennedy, Sherman, Barrett (Royston), Rose, Richardson, Owen, Wilkinson (from Jamaica), Ainslie, Bean, Burnet, Binney, Thoresby, Herschel, &c. &c.; Messrs. Swaine, Griffin, Edwards, Bidgood, Potter, W. A. Hankey, C. Gilpin, &c.

CHARLES LUSHINGTON, Esq., M.P., on taking the chair, said: When I inform you that I only received the invitation to attend here this morning at half-past eight o'clock last night, and that I had then to complete my parliamentary duties and to hasten to my distant home, snatch a few restricted hours of sleep, and then hurry hither for the purpose of fulfilling my promise, I think I am entitled to appeal to your forbearance; and I am sure that, on this great and important occasion, you will be prepared to grant me that indulgence [cheers]. I feel, at all times, very incompetent to address large public meetings like the present in that strain of eloquence,—in that oratorical, argumentative, and brilliant manner to which you are accustomed in the addresses of my reverend friends whom I see around me; on the present occasion I deeply feel that deficiency. But I will not plead ignorance of the object for which you have met. I had the satisfaction, a few nights ago, of attending a meeting, the subject of which was the same as that which now calls us together, in Wycliffe Chapel, St. George's-in-the-East. That edifice was piled up to the very ceiling, and the execration of the miserable treatment of the Rev. Mr. Shore was loud and unanimous. I understand that Mr. Shore, feeling conscientious scruples to preach in the Established Church, officiated at a chapel for Dissenters, and, for doing so, he caused the censure of his ecclesiastical superior. In consequence of that censure, which he felt obliged conscientiously to disregard, he was cited before the Ecclesiastical Courts, and, to the disgrace of those who were concerned,—to the disgrace of the enlightened age in which we live,—he has been incarcerated in Exeter Gaol, for exercising the right of every Christian to speak his own sentiments. I certainly, as I said at the beginning of my address, have not those powers which belong to my friends around me; but, if I had their strength of language, their ability to clothe my thoughts and my feelings in the expressions which they know so well how to wield, I would testify against this act, I would stand up against those iron-bound laws and those steel-hearted prelates—[loud cheers]—and extend throughout the length and breadth of the land my disapprobation of those proceedings [cheers]. It was but the other day, that, in the House of Commons, a bill for the abolishing of this execrable statute was brought in. It has passed through the second reading; its principle has been adopted, and, therefore, we may look upon it as safe in that part of the legislature. But it has yet to pass through the ordeal of the House of Lords [cheers]. It is to be judged of by those who have no right to sit there—[loud applause]—who are interested in the matter, who forget the simplicity of Christianity in their love of power. I have the greatest apprehension regarding the fate of the enactment; but I will say this, if that bill is thrown out in the Chamber to which I allude, the disapprobation of every good man, the execration of every person in the country not a bigot, will follow, and stigmatize that act. During the stages of the bill through the House of Commons, you may rely on my vigilance to prevent its being mutilated; and, moreover, I hope we shall be able to get a clause introduced that will operate so as to relieve Mr. Shore, the victim to whom I have been alluding, from the tyranny to which he is exposed [cheers]. With regard to the expenses and pecuniary inconveniences to which he has been subjected, I am sure it will not be thought of for a moment, because thousands upon thousands will come forward to assist him [cheers]. You will now allow me to call upon one far more competent to address you than myself. I hope you will accept this expression of my concurrence in the manifestation of your enthusiastic love of civil and religious liberty [loud cheers].

The Rev. J. H. HINTON then offered a very solemn and impressive prayer.

The Rev. T. BINNEY then rose to propose the first resolution:—

That this meeting having fully considered the case, and the prosecution and the imprisonment of the Rev. James Shore, affirm that he has strong claim to the cordial sympathy of all the friends of civil and religious liberty, and resolve that an affectionate address from this meeting, signed by the Chairman and the Committee, be presented to him at Exeter, by such deputation as the Committee shall appoint."

I can hardly tell how it happens that I have been brought forward thus early, and thus prominently, in this matter; but here I am, and, with your assistance—which means as much quietness as I can obtain—I will endeavour to discharge my duty. I do not come here as a partizan of Dissent, or as a mere partizan or advocate of James Shore [hear, hear]—I want to look at James Shore and Henry of Exeter, Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, Lord Denman, and the members of the Privy Council, as so many institutions, and just see what it is that they have

wrought out, and brought before the minds of the people of England, as now understood to be the law thereof [cheers]. I have a most unfortunate tendency of mind, when I am writing, when I am preaching, or going through any argument, to feel that there is an adversary looking over my shoulder. When writing an argument, my mind is always trying to answer it, and that is a very bad habit for an advocate [hear, hear]. You state in the resolution, that you feel considerably for the case of Mr. Shore, and I am going to try to help you to pass that resolution with honour and honesty [hear, hear]. As it is very possible that there may be here the adversaries of Mr. Shore—those who take altogether opposite views from us, and who will be poring over the weak points and objections—I beg to say that I have no objection to those weak points being noticed, because it is not merely Mr. Shore, or what Mr. Shore has done; and I am not bound to prove that Mr. Shore was right in every possible step he took. I am to look at the result which Mr. Shore—somehow or other, whether rightly or wrongly—has contrived to bring out as the conditions of the law. I do not like to blink the points, lest our adversaries might think that we were ignorant of the real merits of the case, and merely took up the subject with a party object. I do not mean to have such an imputation laid against me, and whether right or wrong in the way I shall put the case, I shall lay it fully and honestly before you, weak points and all [hear, hear]. Mr. Shore is a deacon and priest of the Church of England. He proceeded to priestly orders in 1829. He was curate of the parish of Berry Pomeroy, in the Archdeaconry of Totness, the diocese of Exeter, and the province of Canterbury. He was curate of this parish, under the Rev. Mr. Edwards, the vicar, from the time he became a priest, in 1829, when he was ordained by the predecessor of the Bishop, Henry, who came into the see in 1830. Mr. Shore continued the curate of this parish to 1832, when the Duke of Somerset built a chapel at Bridgetown, in the same parish, which was licensed for Episcopalian worship, but was not consecrated. There is a strong point in this circumstance. The license might be at any time withdrawn by ecclesiastical authority, and the building secularized, or the proprietor of the property might at any time secularize it himself. In coming here I passed an Episcopalian chapel, on which there was a notice—"The lease of this chapel to be sold." That building was once a Dissenting chapel. It then became Episcopalian, is now in the market, and may be a Dissenting chapel again [cheers]. In Chapel-street, Paddington, there is a prison-looking place going to ruins, which was formerly an Episcopalian chapel, in which the Rev. Basil Wood officiated. Episcopalian chapels not being consecrated, and thus brought within the sacred enclosure of the Church, may be turned into assembly-rooms, bazaars, theatres, shops, or anything else which the proprietor pleases, and surely they may be changed into Nonconformist meeting-houses [cheers]. If Mr. Noel's chapel had been his own property, he could have sold it to be for a meeting-house, and I could have gone and preached there. If he chooses to leave the Establishment, and go there and preach Christ's gospel himself, why should he not have power to do that as well as me? [cheers]. When the chapel in which Mr. Shore ministered was built, Mr. Edwards, the vicar, gave Mr. Shore the nomination, the Bishop licensed it, and he entered upon his duties. In 1834 the Vicar died, and Mr. Brown succeeded him. No fresh nomination was required; Mr. Shore was not informed that he ought to be nominated again; the Bishop did not apprise him, by any official act, that he continued him in the chapel; but one incumbent died, another succeeded him, and Mr. Shore retained his position for nine years afterwards. Now, duration as to our consciousness is measured, not by the number of years, but by the thoughts, the events, the stirring facts, the marvellous things that may fix upon our memory; and in proportion as these things accumulate in a short time, a short time may appear long. Nine years, however, is a very long time anywhere; but in the diocese of Exeter it is a little eternity [laughter and cheers]. There is ample room in that time for a great many things to be said and done in that diocese which I do not choose more particularly to characterize. In 1843 Mr. Brown exchanged livings with Mr. Cousens; and when that gentleman came to the vicarage, there was a sort of unveiling of the Apocalypse of the Diocese [laughter]. Many of the clergy in the diocese wondered at what they saw and heard; but light soon beamed upon them with respect to that system which the Bishop embodied. When Mr. Cousens was expected to come into the vicarage, the Bishop wrote to Mr. Shore to state what he had not done before; namely, that he should expect a fresh nomination, otherwise he could not continue him as minister of the chapel. Mr. Shore replied, that he should attend to the suggestion. Mr. Cousens arrived on Saturday, the 14th of October, and on the following Monday morning, Mr. Shore waited upon him, and asked for the nomination. Mr. Shore, speaking of it said:—"Mr. Cousens frankly told me that the matter was out of his hands, and he had engaged with the Bishop not to give me the nomination [loud cries of 'Hear, hear!'] He also told me, and I quote these words from a letter which I wrote to the Bishop, and which the Bishop has not denied that I wrote to him,—'Mr. Cousens told me that your lordship thought fit to communicate to him such an impression respecting me, that he said it was utterly impossible for him as an honest man, with any regard to his character, to nominate me. If he did so, it would only make him ridiculous and contemptible, as your lordship would not license him!'" That was the private understanding between the Bishop and Mr. Cousens, while he was writing to Mr. Shore to tell him to get a nomination from Mr. Cousens [loud cries of "Hear, hear!"] "This, then," says Mr. Shore, "was my position. I have two letters from the Bishop urging me to get the nomination, and yet the Bishop knew that Mr. Cousens had engaged with him not to give it me" [sensation]. But stop, that is not all. Mr. Shore adds, "On the very day after I applied to Mr. Cousens, I had a letter from the Bishop in the following words:—'Having in vain waited in expectation of hearing from Mr. Cousens, that he had determined to give you a nomination, I am bound to consider you as not having his sanction for officiating in the parish of Berry Pomeroy; therefore, I am also bound to forbid you continuing to perform any clerical offices within my diocese.'" [cries of "Shame!"] The Bishop does not wait to hear from Mr. Cousens the result of an interview with Mr. Shore; he does not wait to hear from Mr. Shore the result of that interview. Mr. Cousens only came into his residence on the Saturday; Mr. Shore called upon him on the Monday

and the next morning, Tuesday, the Bishop, having waited so long in expectation of a nomination, which he knew Mr. Cousens would not give, he writes to Mr. Shore, withdraws his license, and sends him about his business [hear]. There is something like a very grave charge in the language of Mr. Cousens respecting Mr. Shore. I was alarmed when I read it, and I wrote to Mr. Shore inquiring whether there was any imputed moral offence. He answered, No [hear, hear]. I asked distinctly whether Mr. Cousens really did state what he says to him, or whether there was any mistake or apprehension? He replied, Mr. Cousens did state that the offence charged was not anything immoral, and all that he (Mr. Cousens) could make out was, that it was something about Mr. Shore's dislike to the Bishop's proceedings, as opposed to what is called, though I regret I am obliged to use the word, the Bishop's Puseyite proceedings [hear, hear]. I rather think the head and front of Mr. Shore's offence might be summed up in four lines of Dr. Watts, which would show what he had been doing during these nine years, and what the results had been—

"The men that keep thy law with care,
And meditate thy Word,
Grow wiser than their Bishops are,
And better know the Lord."

[immense cheering].

Mr. Shore was silent; the chapel was closed for months. There was no fresh nomination by the vicar. Why not? Because the Duke of Somerset supported Mr. Shore as an injured man, and, under these circumstances, neither the Bishop nor the vicar could send any man in his place. Some of Mr. Shore's pious associates have told him that he ought to have left the neighbourhood, according to the text and law laid down by our Lord Jesus—"When ye are persecuted in one city, flee unto another." Mr. Shore urges, in answer, that those words applied to a case where the people persecuted—that, under those circumstances, advantage might be taken of that law; but for him to depart in consequence of the proceedings of the Bishop, would be to realize another saying of our Lord—"The hireling fleeth because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep" [cheers]. I may here remind you, that from 700 to 800 people have been deprived of the ministrations of the sanctuary, and a minister of the gospel has been silenced for no moral offence whatever, as the Bishop himself admitted on the trial of Mr. Latimer at Exeter [hear, hear]. As light entered the mind of Mr. Shore, his feelings became loosened to the institution, and on the 26th of February, 1844, the chapel was registered, according to law, for a place of Protestant Nonconforming worship, by the request of the agent of the Duke of Somerset. That fact, shows that Mr. Shore had the confidence and support of the noble Lord; and that is, therefore, a guarantee to his morals. Now comes the mistake, as I deem it, and my object is to look at the result by which we are brought to show the people that we understand the case. I am not led away by enthusiasm. I have no hesitation in saying, that now comes the first false step. After the chapel had been thus registered as a Protestant place of worship, Mr. Shore preached for one or two Sundays, before he qualified himself by a positive act of secession from the Church. I do not think that he could with propriety, or that he could legally do that, and he ought not to have done it; but, on the 16th of March, about a fortnight after the registration of the chapel, Mr. Shore put himself into the right position. He went voluntarily before a magistrate, took the oath, and signed the declaration, rendered necessary under the Toleration Act. He then stood as a seceder from the Church, and had the rights and privileges of a Nonconformist minister [hear, hear, hear]. Being now a Nonconformist minister in his own estimation, and the chapel registered as a place for Nonconformist worship, he considered that he was a perfectly free man to do what other Dissenters did, and, therefore, he chose to use the Church prayers, as is done by Mr. Sherman, Mr. Thoresby, and Mr. Sortain. He also chose to make an alteration in the prayers, especially in some particular offices, which he felt that he was at liberty to do, and which his conscience and understanding led him to do. He continued his ministrations for a month or two, and then the Bishop gave him a gentle monition, that as a clergyman, he was officiating without an episcopal license, and he kindly informed him that he had appointed a commission of six or eight clergymen, to come to Totness, and to sit in a room belonging to the Seven Stars—not the seven stars belonging to the Apocalypse [laughter and cheers]—with power to call him before them to answer for a misdemeanor. Mr. Shore replied that he had nothing to do with the Bishop, nor with the commissioners [hear, hear]. If he had stopped there, he must have suffered for the contempt, and the people would have said that the question had never been tried—that he gave them refusal point blank, and never went into a court of law. In one sense it would have been the proper position for him to take. He would then have been cited for contempt, and would have been imprisoned. His case would have come before the nation as a case of imprisonment; but it would have been said, the point had not been raised. Moreover, Mr. Shore was advised that legally he was right, and therefore he said, that for the sake of all the clergy of England seeing and knowing the law, he would go before this commission; but added, I will do that under protest. Nothing could be more right than that [hear, hear]. He did so, and the commission returned to the Bishop a reply on the very particular point into which they were called to inquire, namely, that there were *prima facie* grounds for further proceedings. Without any surprise you will hear that the commissioners made a return to the Bishop stating that there were these grounds. He was then cited into the Court of Arches, and again he appeared under protest. Now mark the charges made against him by the Bishop in that court. They were,—that, as a clergyman of the Church of England, he had preached and performed worship according to the rites and Liturgy thereof. Mr. Shore appeared by his proctor, and I have the whole of his statement. Mr. Shore's proctor demurred to both points, stating, that when Mr. Shore thus preached, he was not a minister of the Church of England, and he did not conduct the service precisely according to the Service book; for he took the Liturgy, and made alterations therein. The two Sundays upon which the Bishop fixed, were those subsequently to his having qualified himself, by personally going before a magistrate. I wonder the Bishop did not fix upon some other Sundays. But the Bishop felt him-

self strong; he did not care a button for this, because he was going on the ground of the indelibility of orders. Mr. Shore denied that he did the act as a clergyman; to which it was replied—once a clergyman, always a clergyman; you cannot cease to be a clergyman,—you are a clergyman at this moment of the Church of England, and you are liable to all ecclesiastical discipline. With respect to his not conducting the service, according to the Service-book, but making alterations therein—the reply was, that the second crime is a greater one than the first,—that is justifying one sin by a worse ["hear," and laughter]. Why, the Bishop of Exeter cited a clergyman of his diocese into the Court, and put him to great expense because he left out two words when he was called to bury a man whom he had been told died drunk. He would not use the words "sure and certain" [hear]. Now Mr. Shore has tried the question in the Court of Arches, where he obtained a deliverance, which deliverance was, that he was to pay all the costs; and he was admonished not to offend again by preaching in future, either in the parish of Berry Pomeroy, in the dioceses of Exeter, or in the province of Canterbury [hear]. Mr. Shore now felt that there was another tribunal to which he could resort. The proper province of the secular law is not to interfere with the regulations of the Church, or with what churches do as churches, but to take care that they do nothing which can injure the property and liberty of the subject. The voice of the secular to the ecclesiastical law is—Do what you like, but in your spiritual capacity—excommunicate, depose, degrade, or anything you please, but keep your hands off [cheers]. "A bishop is to be no striker" [immense applause]. Mr. Shore says,—Here I am in the broad realm of England,—"Britannia rules the waves;" cannot Victoria rule the bishops? [laughter] Mr. Shore determined to have the matter sifted to the bottom, and, therefore, wrote to Mr. Barnes—you know that name [cheers], and said, "I have spent a great deal of money already—I am a poor man—I must endeavour to know what the law is; but I cannot pay the Bishop's costs." That would not serve him in a legal point of view, but it was an appeal from the presbyter to the Bishop. If the Bishop had been what some men are, he would have said, "I am richer than you, we will each pay our own costs, and ascertain what is the law." But he did not this [laughter]. Mr. Shore carried the case to the Queen's Bench, where Lord Denman pronounced it as his opinion, that Mr. Shore could not divest himself of his character, or the holy orders with which he had been clothed by the authority of the Church of England, when he was ordained by one of the bishops, and when he promised canonical obedience, that he could only be released by the same authority which conferred the one, and enjoined the other. I will prove, however, that he cannot be so released. Lord Denman's statement may be plain, good sense—an honest, worldly view of the subject; but that is not the view of the Ecclesiastical Court. Mr. Shore then appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, who said nothing, but referred the case back to the Ecclesiastical Court, just as the judge says, "You must go from hence to the place from whence you came." So that he was sent down to Doctors' Commons. For doing that the Privy Council bring in a bill for about £180, for costs. Sir Herbert Jenner Fust then gave the final decision. He was called, then and there, to answer certain interrogatories, "touching and concerning his soul's health, and the lawful correction and reformation of his manners and excesses [loud laughter]—more especially for having, within the said diocese of Exeter, offended against the laws ecclesiastical, by public reading of prayers," and so on. That is the offence charged; and the Judge, in his final sentence, stated, that should he be guilty of a repetition of this offence, it would be not only against his decision, but against the authority of the Court. He added:—"Though this gentleman is, at this moment, a minister of the Established Church of the land, from whose authority he cannot remove, still I do not think I am entitled to depose him from his ministry; yet I admonish Mr. Shore to abstain from offending in future, by preaching in the parish of Berry Pomeroy, or elsewhere in the province of Canterbury, and I condemn him in the costs." Mr. Shore then found, that the law of the land was this,—that a clergyman of the Church of England, having received priestly orders—and it may be the same with regard to deacons—can do no act by which he may separate himself from the Church. He wrote to Mr. Barnes, the Bishop's Secretary, to know if there was anything that he could do to make his separation from the Church more certain and more public [cheers]—but he found that it could not be done. If he obeyed the primary Bishop of all—the chief Shepherd and Bishop of souls—if he felt that necessity was laid on him to preach the gospel, he would then be guilty of contempt of the spiritual court, and must be imprisoned for the act [cries of "Shame"]—that is the law of England [loud cries of "Shame"]. I have with me the opinion of Lord Eldon, Lord Stowell, and Sir John Dodson on this point. Lord Eldon was said to be a pillar of the Church, but it was remarked that he never went within it, and it was therefore said, that pillars being in the inside, they must call him a buttress [laughter]. But he is pillar or buttress, he was a good lawyer, and he was my fellow-townsmen [laughter]. Lord Eldon says:—"Neither suspension nor deposition can destroy the clerical character." Lord Stowell, the brother of Lord Eldon, remarked, a clergyman assumed a character which he could not lay aside. It had been suggested, that a man might be divested of his clerical character by the commission of crime, but this was not correct. A clergyman might be prevented from exercising his ministration—he might even be given up to the secular power, and be put to death—but he could not be deprived of his clerical character. Sir John Dodson, a later authority, on the 24th August, last year, said, "I am of opinion, that a priest in holy orders of the Church of England, although styling himself a seceder from that Church, and being, in fact, a voluntary seceder thereof, may be committed to prison for contempt of court, for preaching, as a Dissenting minister, contrary to the law of the land." It is quite obvious, that neither deposition from holy orders, degradation, nor excommunication, can confer on a clergyman a legal right to officiate, or preach, as a Dissenting minister. I must pass by several points which I had intended to introduce. Mr. Shore was condemned in two classes of costs—the secular, in the appeal to the Privy Council, and the spiritual suit in the Ecclesiastical Court. He was also under a monition not to preach; or, if he did, he must be imprisoned for it, till he purged himself of his contempt. He might

have been taken for contempt any day; but with very great sagacity—I will not say craft—he was arrested for the costs in the Civil Court. Mr. Shore says, "The head and front of my offending has been the preaching as a Nonconformist minister—for it is all a quibble to talk of anything else, if you look at it with manly minds. I have incurred these costs because I have resisted an oppressive statute against my will. I thought I was a legally-qualified Dissenting minister." He has paid every shilling of his own costs [loud cheers] of that appeal; but he says, "I will not pay the Bishop's. They were incurred by what I consider persecution—I will resist them, and take the consequences." Now, he may be right, or he may be wrong. I confess that the case would have been stronger if he had paid the costs, and been imprisoned for the contempt. But it is not the outs and ins—the little things connected with Mr. Shore—which it is desirable should be brought out and set before the minds of the people of England. Mr. Shore's character is nothing in this case; his rectitude of judgment is nothing in this case; we can afford to put by all these things, and say—Whether it comes from heaven or earth, or under the earth, there it is—it is set forth by the law of England, that no clergyman can separate himself from the Church, and preach the gospel, without being exposed to imprisonment. How is Mr. Shore to be got out of prison? These costs must be paid by somebody; they are not owing to the Queen, to the nation, but to the proctors of the Bishop, and is there any power in England that can come between the man and the person that owes the money, and say they shall not be paid? In my opinion, they must be paid by somebody. It has been said, let Mr. Shore go through the Insolvent Court; but it should be remembered that, were he to do so, any property which he might hereafter possess would be liable for that debt. I have thought of three classes of persons who might pay the money. In the first place, the Bishop himself [loud cheers]. I do not say that in mere sportiveness. The Bishop is an old man, and he is an old dignified ecclesiastic. There is a letter by the Bishop of Exeter in the life of Lord Eldon, that would do credit to any Christian man. Do not run away with the idea that there is no good in the Bishop of Exeter. He may have had his mind poisoned by his extreme and exuberant Anglicanism—[hear]—but there may be with that, a great many good feelings in his heart. He is an old man; he must soon depart, and give an account of his stewardship. He is a minister, and long has he stood in that position in the Church. Why should he not say, "I am right; the law says I am right. God knows that I wish to pursue what I understand to be the principles of the Church, and to maintain my office. The law has supported me, but the nation will not [cheers]. Parliament, in consequence of this very victory that I have won, is going to take up the matter, and put an end to it. Then it will be graceful in an old man to pay respect to the feelings and sentiments of the nation. I have gained the victory; I am satisfied with that; the poor man has paid his costs, and I will pay mine" [loud cheers]. Then the next party is, the evangelical clergy [cheers]. Mr. Shore is really fighting their battle, and so is Mr. Gorham. The latter is striving to get it announced by the law, that evangelical clergymen can stay in the Church and preach the gospel. Mr. Shore is endeavouring to get it brought out by law, that if an evangelical clergyman is not permitted to preach the gospel in the Church, he may have liberty to come out. They are as much interested in what Mr. Shore is doing, as in what is being done by Mr. Gorham. It is whispered, that a great many of the evangelical clergy are deeply intent upon what is to be the issue of Mr. Gorham's trial; for if it goes against him, it will go against them; and some clergymen have determined, in that case, that they will come out of the Church. But the question is, whether they can go out? [loud cries of "hear, hear," and cheers]. I can easily conceive, that many of the clergy boast in the fact, that orders are indelible, and are happy in being where they are. It would be a very proper thing for the evangelical clergy to pay Mr. Shore's costs [laughter]. I lately defended the Archbishop of Canterbury against a clergyman who said, "Here is the Archbishop giving a living of £800 a year to a man who is preaching in favour of baptismal regeneration." I replied, "that the Archbishop was, in a great degree, an institution. He must be hampered by many things about him; and could not always follow the simple suggestions of the inward man." He replied, "I know that; and I confess myself to be a dishonest Churchman." "Then (said I) I do not think you should find fault with the Archbishop, if he rewards an honest one" [laughter and cheers]. The last parties who, I should say, ought to pay the costs, are a sort of liberal politicians, who make grand speeches in the House of Commons, and seem to be men of great earnestness and liberality. But I have heard some of these say, that they do not care a button for Mr. Shore; but they regard the present proceedings as a blot on the Church. Then I should say that it would be a good thing for them to write a cheque, send it down, and wipe off the debt [laughter]. In conclusion, let me say that I am here as an Englishman to maintain and to seek, by my humble efforts and influence, to bring about what ought to exist in this very land, namely, that honest, conscientious, religious conviction carried out and embodied in action, ought not to be impeded by any law, temporal or spiritual, that would touch life, body, or goods [cheers]? Secondly, I am here as a religious Nonconformist. It is too bad that this nation should say to us Nonconformists, You shall not have the advantage of the national Universities; and then, if any man who has had it should wish to come to you, you shall not have him. It is too bad that Mr. Noel, sitting on my left, should be silenced [loud cheers]. Is it to be borne that a Christian Englishman like Mr. Noel should continue to be exposed to a superior who can call him before a spiritual court for preaching Christ's gospel? And, further, is it to be borne that all the Christian denominations should be deprived, his life long, of the instructions and edification of his teaching? [cheers.] There is a double crime—a double injustice. Now, lastly, I come as a member of the Church of England [loud cheers]. I pay Church-rates, and I consider myself legally to be of the body of the Church, though, religiously, I am not of its soul. I have a right to go to a parish vestry—which, in our Nonconformist language, would be called a Church-meeting—to deliver my opinion, and to say my say. As they have got my body legally, I have a right to make them a present of my mind [laughter and cheers]. We

Dissenters throughout the country, paying Church-rates, sustaining the edifices, not being communicants, but paying for the bread and wine of those who are [hear, hear], have a right to utter our sentiments, and to stand forth there or anywhere, and make our remarks on the Church, no man making us afraid. I do not want to be relieved of Church-rates [laughter]. I like my modicum in the buildings, and my right to say what I think about the institution [laughter]. The conclusion of the whole matter is this—I know it is thought to be a very sore offence that we should be agitating and discussing in this way, in the holy season of Lent [laughter and cries of "Oh!"]. It is a fact—a very repulsive and painful fact—that people will do these things of which we complain, in the holy season of Lent. I should have thought that the Bishop might have suggested to himself, it will not do to put a man into a cell at this season. It is, however, exceedingly apostolic to be in prison in the holy season of Lent. You remember that the apostle Peter was there at that season; and our translators have told us, by using a word they had no right to employ, that his persecutors intended, after Easter, to bring him forth to the people. I think that, on Easter Monday, there is a vestry meeting in the various parishes, and every one of you have the power, in the vestry, of keeping your eyes upon the law, and upon the agent of the Bishop; and, after Easter, to bring his subject forth to the people [loud and long-continued cheers].

Earl DUCIE rose to second the resolution. I came down here (he said) this morning without the slightest idea of appearing on this platform, but with a view of showing my sympathy to Mr. Shore, by contributing my mite towards paying the costs for which he is confined in Exeter gaol. When, however, I was asked to second the resolution now before the meeting, I could not refuse to do it. I cherish sympathy with all those whose feelings are in unison with mine. I feel that a great attempt is now being made to oppress the consciences of the people of this country; nevertheless, I should rather have avoided appearing on so public an occasion. It is said that there is a bill in the House of Commons which will prevent the future occurrence of such transactions as the present. What do you want more? If you want to get Mr. Shore out of gaol, there is no difficulty in raising the money. The Chairman has remarked, that there is no doubt but the bill will pass the House of Commons; but he observed, that there is another House, where it may possibly be thrown out. I ask, however, do you suppose that there is less real love of religious liberty in the House of Peers than in the House of Commons? I cannot admit it. I believe that the Peers are as honest and right dealing as the representatives of the people, and I believe that they will not reject a measure of justice to the consciences of those whose services are devoted to the religious welfare of their country. Some persons have said—We have no fear of the temporal Peers, but there is the bench of Bishops, what will they do? I have not been accused hitherto of being too much the advocate of the Episcopalian bench, but I wish to stand forward here as their defender. I cannot believe that the body of Bishops in this country can or will oppose a measure which is passing through the House of Commons almost by acclamation [cheers]. Do you suppose that the imposition of hands imparts such an amount of the Holy Spirit to qualify men to perform the functions of the ministry that they are too good to go into any other denomination? [hear, hear.] We have heard from the right reverend gentleman on my left (Mr. Binney) [loud cheers]—that it was the opinion of Lord Stowell that a man could not, by the commission of any offence, obtain the right to be expelled, or retire from the Church of England. If so, the Church is edging itself round when it says, that a man cannot be so bad that it is necessary he should be expelled.

The Rev. T. BINNEY rose and wished it to be understood, that the law of England expressly provided for a minister becoming a Roman Catholic, although it did not provide for his becoming a Nonconformist.

The Rev. G. H. STODDART, A.M. (of the Church of England), said: I am truly gratified to support the motion of my rev. brother, Mr. Binney, and to act in unison with so staunch a defender of civil and religious liberty. We should not be doing justice to ourselves, and to this meeting, if we did not explicitly declare, that it is on no personal favouritism for Mr. Shore, whatever sympathy we may feel for him—or, on the other hand, no individual antagonism to the Bishop of Exeter (however much ground that diocesan may have given for public censure), that we have deemed it requisite to call this meeting. Nor is it any party or sectarian feeling that has rallied us to combine in remonstrance against the act of tyrannical oppression in question, so unworthy the nineteenth century; but the great principle of religious liberty—the great axiom, that each man shall have full liberty to select his own religious course, undisturbed by the beetling brows of civil or ecclesiastical superiors [cheers]. If similar occurrences transpired in the Scotch Episcopal Church—where, indeed, something of the sort has occurred in the case of Sir W. Dunbar—we should feel bound to lift our protest; or if, in the Presbyterian Church, the disgraceful oppressions continue to exist, in the civil power withholding sites for men to serve God with religious liberty; or were the Assembly of Nonconformist Divines resuscitated at Westminster, and with fanatical Puritanism again interfere (as some of our own day seem well inclined to do) with personal religious freedom; we should, in this same way, meet, though differing in many minor religious points, yet all agreed in the great essentials of religious truth and religious liberty, raise our voices in denunciation of such oppressions, and do our best, by moral demonstration, to obviate their recurrence, expressing the veto of public indignation against such violations of liberty [cheers]. In addressing ourselves to the immediate case before us, let us not be drawn aside by any technical quibbles, whether Mr. Shore has not brought this load upon his own shoulders by the act of appealing to the court, which now demands the payment of the costs. It was truly urged here, the other day, by the Rev. Mr. Burnet, that the question was, whether he ought to have quietly sat down under the sentence of the Court of Arches, or whether he was not bound, for his own sake, and for the sake of all of us, to carry the matter by appeal to the Court of Privy Council for the decision of Cæsar. He was driven into a corner by the Ecclesiastical Court; and if he had not appealed, it would have appeared, by acquiescence, that he confessed the righteousness of their sentence [hear, hear]. Our liberties would have been compromised by his acquiescence.

Neither let the matter be craftily shuffled between the bishop, the bishop's secretary, the bishop's secretary's clerk, and the bishop's secretary's bull-dog, who whined and wept, tracked the good man to his haunt of God's house, and fawned upon him, while he conveyed the godly man, from preaching the gospel to a prison at 200 miles distance. Let the plain, bare fact be kept in your mind, that a minister of the gospel is here, like John Bunyan, incarcerated for his faithful zeal, without the liberty he enjoyed of going out every Sabbath to preach the gospel, but placed among felons, to listen on that day, perhaps, to some strange comment on honouring the ministers of Christ as they would treat himself. It may be well for legal people to say, "But these were costs incurred by himself." Costs due to whom? To the Privy Council? They would be ashamed to have such a disgraceful claim put forth for them. Was it then to the officials, the proctors and the proctors' bull-dogs? Let such officials and lawyers learn not to sell themselves to such vile instrumentality; or, if they will, let them incur public censure. The toga of civil jurisprudence once was the greatest defender of liberty. If they now pander to oppression, let those who hound them on to harry and to worry God's people pay them their thirty pieces of silver. What a remarkable interpretation of a bishop's attachment for his fellow-ministers! How singular that shepherds' dogs should turn against the shepherds! But, in the words of Mr. Shore, "The time has fully come when the civil sword should be wrested from the grasp of ecclesiastical hands" [cheers]. I would add, that the time is fully come when civilians should disclaim ecclesiastical domination. What do I advise? First.—That this large meeting should appoint a deputation to convey its deliberate conviction and indignant remonstrance to the Prime Minister, and claim, according to Sir C. Eardley's suggestion, that the law be speedily altered which admits of such oppression. Second.—That if the Government desire to continue the Established Church, greater liberty be forthwith conceded in it,—so that godly men, like the Hon. and Rev. B. Noel, Mr. Shore, and others, be not, by conscience, driven out of it [cheers]. For myself, unless greater liberty be so conceded in the Establishment, both to ministers and to people, I shall feel compelled to act after the same example of publicly advocating the reforms the Establishment will not itself make; and believe that several will shake off such galling fetters of ecclesiastical oppression [loud applause].

The Rev. R. AINSLIE having read the proposed address from the meeting to Mr. Shore,

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously. The CHAIRMAN expressed his regret that pressing duties compelled him to retire from the chair.

Earl DUCIE then occupied the vacant seat.

The Hon. and Rev. B. W. NOEL, on rising to move the next resolution, was received with deafening cheers. I have (he said) first to thank you for your cordial reception of one, who is simply placed in the situation of Mr. Shore, or rather, of one who has not suffered anything like what that gentleman has done, for taking the same steps. Therefore, I thank you, not only for the cordial welcome you have given me, but, likewise, for the facilities you have afforded me to the task I have set myself, in becoming the advocate of Mr. Shore. My rev. friend, who has so ably introduced these proceedings, has very powerfully directed our attention to the discredit to this country, and the disadvantage, both to members of the Established Church, and to Dissenters from it, arising from the unknown state of the law. But in the course of that powerful address, he confirmed the resolution I had previously entertained, to take another aspect of that question, and to speak to you distinctly and simply about Mr. Shore. Our meeting is called to express sympathy with him—that sympathy has just been demonstrated by the letter you have been pleased to vote. It is to me, however, a pleasant task further to impress on the minds of those I have the honour of addressing, how reasonable and just that letter of sympathy is—how right it is we should feel sympathy towards a gentleman who has suffered most wrongfully for having fulfilled his duty. I wish to call your attention to some of those facts which illustrate how much of injustice Mr. Shore has suffered in this matter. In the course of my speech, I may illustrate in a measure the resolution I hold in my hand, and as I shall have to move it, I will read it now:—

"That this meeting learns with unqualified dissatisfaction, that the canons of the year 1603, with all their strange peculiarities, have still, in their application to the clergy of the Establishment, the force of law; and that, although such procedure as the Bishop of Exeter has taken upon them stands almost alone for nearly two centuries, the successive decisions of courts have only confirmed the hopelessness of Mr. Shore's case as a sufferer, and shown the liability of every clergyman who may secede from the Church of England, and subsequently preach the gospel, to the loss of personal liberty, and to the enormous expenses of the process by which his imprisonment would be ultimately secured."

From these canons, I would, for a moment, divert your attention, to recall some of the steps of those afflictions, greater or smaller, which have befallen my reverend friend. Let me remind you, in the first place, that Mr. Shore has never, previously to his entrance upon this calamitous event, been accused of any fault in his ministry, either with reference to doctrine or discipline; that he was a minister of unblemished reputation, not even blamed by his own diocesan. For ten years he was an unblamed minister of that Church over which I trust he will long preside. That church was gathered by his evangelical labours; persons of every sentiment, and some of very irreligious habits, were brought to the house of God, and many under the power of Divine truth, which reached their consciences and converted their hearts; and they became an exceedingly peaceable, happy community of those professing to be saints and faithful brethren, and numbers of them being so in reality. For ten years this proceeded, every one in the neighbourhood esteeming and honouring my reverend friend. I have been myself in his pulpit, and witnessed the prosperity of his congregation, when I have preached there on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, to which he was a zealous and early friend [hear]. But, as you have heard, after ten years of the exercise of this ministry over that congregation to which he was introduced by a prelate, who asked him whether he believed himself called by the Holy Ghost to take upon him that office of ministry—of course believing that there was such a call—after having expressed his persuasion that he was thus called, and was then placed over that church, with respect to the ministry of which the Apostle Paul used this solemn word, "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,"—a stranger arrives in Berry Pomeroy, and assumes the superintendence of that parish, who had never instructed the Christians forming that congregation—a stranger in whom they felt no confidence, and to whom they owed no allegiance—to whose position in the neighbourhood they yielded no consent; and he announces to this people and their minister that they must part, because he will not give a nomination to the minister set over them in the Lord [hear, hear]. God had called him to that work; and when Mr. Shore had to place the question before himself—Shall I yield the superintendence of this flock to I know not whom—to one who may lead them away from the truth, rather than strengthen their love for it—a man who may ruin their souls while he scatters the flock?—I can imagine that Mr. Shore would violate many feelings of his own, and risk many sufferings, rather than be thus taken from a people attached to his ministry, and to whom long years had riveted his own attachment [cheers]. Yet, when this gentleman refused to nominate my reverend friend, there were evidently means by which he might have reviewed that decision [hear, hear]. I can conceive that, if his diocesan—possessed, as he was, of vast influence in the diocese, and of transcendent talent—had represented to Mr. Cousens the inconvenience and hardship that would arise from dismissing this excellent minister—if he had presented his expression of full confidence in the soundness of Mr. Shore's views, and the consistency of his conduct—the new incumbent would, perhaps, have questioned whether it was right to refuse the nomination. But, unhappily, the Bishop of Exeter did not employ his influence to counteract a step likely to be fraught with so much spiritual mischief to those hundreds who were gathered together as a church of Christ. On the contrary, as my rev. friend has stated, it appears the Bishop of Exeter was the source of that refusal to the nomination, and that he did not leave to this gentleman his own unbiased judgment on the matter; but, previous to all acquaintance with Mr. Shore, he intimated, as I learn from the facts stated to-day, that he could not himself consent to give a license to this injured minister. This introduces another feature in the hardship of this case. He had to pass the ordeal of the nomination of Mr. Cousens, and I doubt not he would have passed it if the Bishop had employed his influence on the side of charity. But, if he had secured the nomination of Mr. Cousens, he had yet to seek the license of the Bishop, because not only had Mr. Cousens the right to take the minister from the flock, but the Bishop likewise had an indisputable right to tear him from it [hear, hear]. There might be no fault alleged against him—nothing unsound in doctrine or vicious in life; no mental or moral infirmity to impair the efficacy of his ministrations; but by his own mere fiat, the prelate had the right of recalling the license, whenever he pleased, though he chose to disguise the severity of his conduct by putting it on the nomination of the incumbent. What is true in Mr. Shore's case is true in the case of every one who is a minister holding the office of curate. The law will not stoop to protect others, but to preserve the incumbent, because he has a right in the freehold; but the curates and ministers of proprietary chapels may be driven from their ministry—driven from their congregations—driven from their diocese—driven from the Church of England, by the mere fiat of any prelate under whom they are placed [hear, hear]. Mr. Shore had no alternative left him, but either to leave the Established Church, or to desert the congregation to which God had made him so useful. It has been asked, whether he should not peaceably have relinquished the sphere of usefulness in which he had been engaged; and it has been well answered, that Mr. Shore would then have been acting like the hireling who fled when the wolf appeared, caring not for the sheep. To me it seems that the allegation I have heard to-day, that a man persecuted in one city must flee unto another, as applicable to the present case, is only torturing and perverting Scripture, when I recollect the Apostolic principle, which far more applies to this case, namely, that, when persecution arose, and the feeble laymen of the flock were driven from their homes and comforts, not to conceal the truth, but to preach it everywhere, the Apostles alone remained at Jerusalem, and would not, by force of persecution, be driven from the site of that Metropolitan Church. Mr. Shore was called on to adhere to the office in which God had given him many seals to the usefulness of his ministry, and he took the only step which remained for him to take, by seceding from the Established Church. My reverend friend has been blamed for taking that step, but it seems to me that the circumstances justified his decision. He found, by the discipline of the Establishment, that he might be taken from the ministry, not only in the diocese of Exeter, but in every other diocese; and, when an evil was to be apprehended from his continuance, justly might he take exception to that discipline, upon which alone he grounds his secession. His doctrine remains still unaltered; but the discipline of the Establishment called upon him to take the only step which could secure his peaceable continuance in the ministerial office. When he was cited to the Court of Arches, he proceeded to protest himself against the attempt of the Bishop to remove him from his charge. If he had had reason to think that the Bishop had nothing in view but the protection of his diocese from the formation of another congregation of Nonconformists—that the Bishop's motive was only to prevent secession, he would have seen in it nothing but what was honourable and high-minded; but it was impossible that these results should follow from the persecution which carried him to the court. Would the Duke of Somerset have been pleased, as patron of the chapel, by this violence done to one whom he had openly befriended? Would the congregation have been pleased to see new burdens laid on a minister whom they valued and esteemed? Would persecution have been likely to make Mr. Shore review the conclusion to which he had come, or think that the discipline under which he was suffering was more mild and equitable? The effect must be, to aggravate the mischief which the Bishop was striving to prevent, and was seriously calculated to inflict injury on his cause. But what was the position of Mr. Shore when cited to this court? It is very easy to say, He should have suffered persecution quietly. I fully acknowledge that every man who is called to suffer injustice for the cause of Christ, ought to suffer quietly, and without resistance; but it is when the law is ascertained [hear, hear]. For my own part, I never did, and never will, resist a single law which calls upon me to do nothing wrong. For myself, I must own I would have paid the costs solely on this ground—"When ye do well, and suffer for it, and yet take it patiently, this is acceptable to God;" but when we are called upon by law, or by an individual, to do that which is repugnant to the conscience, and odious to the truth, it is well to resist even to the death [cheers]. When, however, the law is simply a persecuting and unjust law, and inflicted on parties for doing right, I think as a Christian I am bound to suffer, without resistance and without complaint. I think that was the course adopted by the first Christians. Mr. Shore was not in that condition. On the contrary he had every reason to believe that the law was with him, and he knew that equity was on his side. Let me quote let Wm. & Mary, sec. iv. c. 18, which seemed so thoroughly to meet the case that I do not wonder that the lawyers who advised Mr. Shore believed that his efforts would be successful. That sections enact, that persons taking oaths and making the declarations prescribed by that Act shall not be prosecuted in any Ecclesiastical Court, for or by reason of their nonconformity to the Church of England. Now, he was only prosecuted for nonconformity to the Church, for nothing but preaching after he had regularly seceded from it—no other offence is laid against him than this. He could not imagine that anything could be laid to his charge for preaching as a Nonconformist, knowing that Nonconformists were protected from being prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court. He had reason to think that the law was on his side; and if it was, then it was just to the Church he had forsaken, just to the bodies he had joined, that this should be seen to be the law, and that it was not law, but oppression, under which he was suffering. But when he came to defend his case in the Ecclesiastical Court, something most unlooked-for, something not to be anticipated, which the quickest imagination of the lawyers could not have defined, was imagined in the shape of the 76th canon. This canon, said Sir F. Thesiger, and other lawyers upon the side opposed to Mr. Shore, expressly provides: "That no man, being admitted a deacon, or minister, shall from henceforth voluntarily relinquish the same, nor afterwards use himself, in the course of his life as a layman, upon pain of excommunication." But yet, when the canon was read, one would have thought a man would have perceived that it did not apply to this case. Mr. Shore was not voluntarily excommunicating himself as a layman. Why, he was acting as a pastor, he was over a church of Christ, he was giving himself wholly to the ministry. Now, could you suppose that this canon, forbidding him to become a layman, could affect him as a pastor? Besides, it is a canon of the Church of England, and he was no longer of the Church of England. The canon was passed by the Church of England to govern its members; but he had seceded from it. He could not imagine that a court

of justice would apply the canon against him, a Nonconformist; yet upon this canon, and this canon only, do the advocates of the other side rely, to justify the Court of Arches in forbidding his preaching in future, and in sentencing him to the costs of the proceedings. When this case was brought to the Court of Queen's Bench, it was upon this ground that it was heard—namely, that the Court of Arches having determined against my friend on the canon, no other statute could be pleaded against it. Did he do right in bringing the case before the Queen's Bench, and so adding to the costs and intricacy of the proceedings? Might he not, from the language of the canon, reasonably have expected that the Court of Queen's Bench would have determined that the canon was not applicable to the case? The Queen's Bench, however, having heard the argument on both sides, delivered its unanimous judgment, through Lord Denman, refusing a prohibition of the proceedings in the Court of Arches. The canon forbids a minister of the Church of England ever relinquishing his ministry and acting as a layman; and, by a solemn judgment of the Queen's Bench, it has been determined, that no Nonconforming minister, however regularly ordained—however blameless or useful his ministry—is any other than a layman. The Church of England, by that law, disowns the orders of all the brethren around me, and refuses to acknowledge them as the ministers of Christ. [Loud cries of "Hear, hear."] Is it not one of the effects of this law, that it prevents those who ought to be one with Christ, from marching forward to the emancipation of the world from vice and superstition, by branding most unrighteously upon the brow of others, no less than mine, that we are schismatics, who do not belong to the body of Christ? [Cheers.] Mr. Shore, then, had reason to carry this case still higher, and appeal to the noble lords constituting the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to see whether there was not a broad general sense in England that could sweep away the tyranny of the law, and the acts of injustice committed under it. However, the Privy Council refused the appeal, and it was dismissed again to the friendly embrace of the Court of Arches [cheers]. We are asked to-day to express our sympathy with Mr. Shore, respecting all the preliminary proceedings to which he has been exposed, and, finally, respecting these additional hardships which are now heaped upon him. He is in prison now, for refusing to pay the costs before the Privy Council. Suppose they were paid, there still remain to be paid the costs of the proceedings in the Court of Arches, and if they were not defrayed he would still be liable to imprisonment; and even if they were paid, he would be liable to imprisonment at any future time, on the application of the Bishop, for contempt of court. Thus there is a long period of incarceration before a blameless and much-injured man for no other fault than that of preaching the gospel faithfully in the diocese of Exeter [cheers]. Any one of common sense who attends to this narrative, and recollects the exemplary character of this gentleman from the beginning, the promptitude with which, when he saw it right, he seceded from the Establishment, and then the course of vexatious proceedings that have pursued him still, which were not adapted to strengthen the Establishment, and therefore take it not uncharitably to ascribe it to a spirit of revenge, cannot but sympathize with Mr. Shore. These proceedings have now placed him within the limits of a dungeon, and threaten him with a long incarceration, unless your urgency and sympathy should intervene. It is true a bill has been brought into Parliament, much to the credit of the gentlemen who have zealously moved in it, and it ought to provide that all clergymen who have or may become Nonconformists, should be exempted from all pains and penalties whatever [hear, hear]. Every man's sense of justice responds to that position. I rejoice that the House of Commons has passed the measure without a division, and I trust that the House of Lords will not be backward in defending the principle, and carrying it with a triumphant majority. If a bill so just in its provisions and unobjectionable in its principles, should not be carried through Parliament, I trust there will be many hundred meetings such as this to testify their feelings on the subject [loud cheers]. But it is not merely to protect ourselves and others from inconvenience and hardship, to protect a most injured man, that we have this day met. Is Mr. Shore to suffer still in prison because he was the first victim to this oppression? Let it not be said that I am selfish in advocating the cause of Mr. Shore, and endeavouring to throw the weight of public opinion over those who might be placed in like circumstances. I do not think it would be an offence for a man to speak on a public question, where there is right and truth on the side that he adopts, because he is interested in those proceedings. It is what the natural self-love of man has done in every case where religion is affected, and must do so in every controversy to the end. But at the same time I beg to assure you I have not been influenced even by self-love—I will not call it selfish—because it is my simple conviction, that there is no other prelate on the bench—perhaps not one man in the kingdom, who would have acted as the Bishop of Exeter has done, except that aged man, to whom such affecting allusion has been made to-day, who will soon have to give his account before God, and who will have to say, as Paul said on the terrible interview he had with the same gracious Being, "Thou knowest that I shut up those that believed on thee, and cast them into prison." I have no sort of apprehension that the good sense of the right rev. prelate, who was once my diocesan, would so falter in good feeling as to follow a course of conduct which I believe he condemns as much as we do [cheers]. But, at the same time, we have met to protect our brother; and I ask Mr. Bouverie to insert in the bill a retrospective clause, which shall preserve him from hardship and suffering. If a few contributions would save Mr. Shore from imprisonment, it would very speedily be done. But as the bill is passing through Parliament in consequence of the injustice to which he has been exposed, would it not be right that Parliament should express its sense of the injustice done to him personally [cheers]. I do not wish to take from any of the courts of justice, civil or ecclesiastical, any of the powers they rightly possess; but I say, that gross and crying injustice has been done, in this instance, to an exemplary man; and I think it becomes us to ask Parliament to protect him. Injustice has been done; and it becomes the legislature to say to him—Thou shalt, from this moment, be protected from that injustice. I do not know whether we can refuse the costs adjudged to the Bishop; but, if the case cannot be met by Parliament, then I have another remedy which I shall propose in all sincerity. I trust there will be a noble monument raised to the last act of bigotry; and, if the costs must be paid, let there be a thousand meetings held, and each of them send ten shillings to a Bishop of Exeter fund [loud laughter, and long-continued cheering]. While I have said this of the prelate, I cannot conclude without saying, with what heartfelt satisfaction and thorough acquiescence I have listened to the generous expressions that fell from my reverend friend respecting that prelate. I have read the letter to Lord Eldon, and an admirable one it is. It makes me hope that fashion and pride only may have perverted his judgment, or may have poisoned his heart. And yet he has put an unoffending minister of Christ in prison for nothing else than preaching Christ's gospel. I do trust that he may yet live some years, to testify by his conduct his sorrow for that violence, and to show not only warm friendship to that injured person, but to allay the feeling which he has excited in the diocese over which he presides; that, as he approaches the eternal world, he may catch some feelings of that charity which fills the breasts of its celestial inhabitants. I like one suggestion that has been thrown out, and I think it will be the best plan of all, if his lordship will graciously say that he will not impose on a poor man, who has already suffered too much, the burden of these costs, but will pay them himself. I am sure you will concur with me, that it would be far more agreeable to us to detail the virtues of those that differ from us, than to signalize their offences. Justice must be done, truth must prevail; and, perhaps, more signally in this case than in any other, must the old Latin proverb be proved true, "*Summus justitiae summa infamia*." But we may hope that brighter days are dawning over the Church of Christ, and that those may sit in brotherhood who have hitherto, by absurd and gothic canons, gone in opposite directions. When I recollect that, perhaps, out of a hundred secessions from the Establishment of which we have heard, this is the only case in which one has suffered imprisonment, I feel that there is not that illiberality in the community which this solitary instance might indicate. Grateful, then, to

Divine Providence for the days in which we live, for the laws under which we are placed, for justice at the head of the Government in this country, let us not exaggerate the evil we deplore, while we endeavour to remove it; but with a vigour that will not submit to injustice, let us combine gratitude for the justice we enjoy [loud and long continued cheers].

The Rev. W. BUCK, in seconding the resolution, bore testimony against the injustice which had been done to Mr. Shore. [We regret our inability to furnish particulars of this or the remaining speeches, as we have been unable to obtain the official report.]

The resolution was then put and carried.

The Rev. J. BURNET rose to move:—

"That, as a Bill, under the care of the Honourable Mr. Bouverie, has been already read a second time in the House of Commons, for the relief of the clergy, who may come under the oppressive operation of this penal canon; and, as it is understood that a clause will be introduced into that Bill, having a retrospective regard to the case of Mr. Shore, this meeting cordially adopts a petition to both Houses of Parliament, that some such measure of righteous provision for the full liberty of the British subject may be carried through all its successive stages, and so made statute law with the least possible delay."

The Rev. Mr. CRAIG, of Pentonville, after seconding the resolution, read the petition to which it referred.

The Rev. Dr. BRAMMONT moved, and T. BIGGOLD, Esq., of Ipswich, seconded a vote of thanks to the chairman; which having been put and acknowledged by him, the meeting separated.

MERTING AT WHITECHAPEL.—On Monday evening, a public meeting, consisting of about 5,000 persons, took place at St. John's Chapel, Whitechapel, for the purpose of receiving the report of the deputation appointed to visit the Rev. James Shore, a prisoner in the Gaol of Exeter. Sir W. Clay, Bart., M.P., in the chair. Letters from Lord Dudley Stuart, R. Osborne, Esq., M.P., and others, were read, accounting for their non-attendance on the occasion. After a spirited address from the Chairman, Dr. Reed gave an interesting account of his visit to Mr. Shore in Exeter Gaol. He had one suggestion to make with reference to the bill now before Parliament, viz., that the friends and supporters of Mr. Shore in the House of Commons should watch the bill, and take especial care that it provided for the past as well as for the future; for it would, indeed, be a strange anomaly if Mr. Shore were kept in prison after the passing of an enactment which his own position had given rise to [hear, hear]. A resolution was then passed, to the effect

That this meeting heard the report now presented by the Rev. Dr. Reed, begs to tender to him their cordial thanks for the prompt and efficient manner in which he has discharged his mission.

The second resolution was proposed by GEORGE THOMPSON, Esq., M.P., and seconded by Mr. GEORGE OFFOR. It was as follows:—

That this meeting regards the commission given by the Great Founder of religion to any individual to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances of the church, as altogether beyond the province of human authority; a right on which no court, civil or ecclesiastical, can interfere without great and manifest wrong; and, therefore, this meeting learns with deep anxiety and regret that in the case of the Rev. James Shore, M.A., this indefeasible right has been interfered with, at the instance of his diocesan, by the Ecclesiastical Court of Arches—such court and such proceedings this meeting denounces as alien from Christianity and directly opposite to man's highest rights and obligations.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the meeting next resolved—

That a petition be adopted for presentation to the House of Commons, and that the members for the borough of the Tower Hamlets be requested to take charge of the same.

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

THE OUTED CONGREGATIONS OF THE SCOTTISH FREE CHURCH.—Our readers will be pleased to learn that the congregations which have lost their churches by the late decision in the House of Lords, are commencing preparations in good spirit for the erection of churches for themselves. We hear of two sites having already been secured. We trust they will be able, by making a good use of their time, to be comfortably housed before next winter.—*Scottish Guardian*.

THE "ACADIA" STEAM-SHIP.—This noble vessel, so well known for her rapid passages across the Atlantic, has been stranded upon the coast of Holland. She has been purchased by the Central German Government, and had been just thoroughly repaired at Liverpool, and equipped as a war-steamer to protect the German trade from the Danish cruisers.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR THE POOR.—A preliminary meeting has been held in Edinburgh for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted for obtaining suitable house accommodation for the lower classes. The Lord Provost mentioned that such was the scarcity of dwellings at a low rent that he had received forty applications for a house rented at £7. The feeling of the meeting was that a joint-stock company would be the best medium for carrying out the proposed design, and a sub-committee was appointed to report as to details.

SHOCKING DISCOVERY.—On Friday morning, about 10 o'clock, the workmen employed pulling down the houses for the formation of the new street from Walbrook to Queen-street, Southwark-bridge, on entering the house No. 1, Castle-court, for that purpose, to their horror, found in one of the upper rooms the corpse of a woman, with three children crouched around it, the eldest apparently not ten years old, and all seeming on the point of death. The fetid odour of the apartment compelled the men to retire for the moment; on returning they questioned the children, but all they could glean from them was that they were starving. Information was instantly forwarded to the police-station in Bow-lane, and the children, who had scarcely a vestige of clothing, and were literally covered with vermin, were removed to the city-workhouse in Cannon-street, where they received every attention, but from the dreadful state of exhaustion of the two youngest they are not expected to survive. The corpse of the unfortunate woman was merely covered with a ragged gown, no clothing, furniture, or bedding was in the room, and it is supposed that, finding the house empty, she, with her children, crept in for shelter, and they are believed to have been there some days totally without food.—*Globe*.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

SERMON IN MONOSYLLABLES.—On Sunday morning, the 11th inst., the Rev. S. Phillips Day, who was formerly a monk in the Church of Rome, preached a sermon at Broad-street Independent Chapel, Crediton, to the juvenile portion of his flock entirely in words of one syllable.

STOCKPORT.—Mr. M. Howard, the senior student of Airedale College, has received and accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from the church and congregation assembling in Tabernacle Chapel, Stockport, but will not enter upon his stated labours till after leaving the college in June.

The Rev. T. D. REYNOLDS, late of Earls-Colne, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church in Henrietta-street, Brunswick-square, to supply the pulpit for three months, with a view to the pastorate.

COVENTRY.—On Sunday evening, March 11th, an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached at Vicar-lane Chapel, in this city, to a very crowded congregation, by the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., President of Cheetham College, at the close of which a collection was made towards liquidating the debt on the school-rooms connected with the chapel, amounting to the liberal sum of £45 3s. For the above object, in connexion with a debt on the small chapel at Stoke, in the suburbs, the sum of £800 has been raised by the voluntary contributions of the congregation within the last four years.

A MORAVIAN MISSION TO THE MOSQUITO SHORE is on its way from Europe. They will be very warmly received, and there is a large field of usefulness before them. The missions will consist of three members, one of whom is to devote himself specially to education.

HALIFAX.—The anniversary sermons of Square-chapel (the Rev. B. Mellors, A.M.) Sabbath-schools, were preached last Sabbath by the Rev. Richard Skinner, of Huddersfield, when collections were made, amounting to £41 0s. 0½d. These schools are in a prosperous state—contain 73 teachers, and 825 scholars; two-thirds are able to read in the Scriptures. There are 162 above 14 years of age; 11 teachers and 15 scholars have been received into the communion of the church during the past year.

The Rev. JOHN GILL, late of Sawbridgeworth, Herts, having accepted the invitation of the Congregational church at Witham, Essex, commenced his ministry there on Lord's-day, the 18th inst.

PORTRAIT OF HENRY VINCENT.—Mr. Charles Gilpin has met a public want in bringing out a correct and striking likeness of our popular friend, Henry Vincent. The artist is Mr. Bell Smith, well known for former successful efforts in the same line. He has succeeded in arresting and fixing upon canvass the expression of a countenance which is familiar to hundreds of our readers, and to thousands besides. To numbers whose souls have been stirred within them by the burning and irresistible eloquence of this popular orator, as well as to many who have not been so privileged, but are perhaps waiting their turn, this faithful portrait will prove a valuable memento. In looking at the likeness, it is not difficult to imagine Henry Vincent to be a genuine descendant of those sturdy Puritans on whose history he has thrown so much light, and whose example he has held up with so much power and authority.

THE LATE DR. GORDON.—A public meeting, convened by the Christian Temperance Society, was held in the Music-hall, Jarratt-street, Hull, on Monday evening week, for the purpose of proposing measures for the erection of a "People's Monument" over the grave of the late Dr. Gordon. The memory of the deceased gentleman was commemorated by each of the speakers in the most eulogistic terms.

THE BRISTOL MURDER.—An inquest has been held on the body of Miss Jefferies at Bristol. It has been discovered that the murder was committed with a peice of stone weighing about four pounds, which used to be employed to keep open a back-door during the day. The stone was found on the hob in the bedroom; there were blood and grey hairs sticking to it, and it fitted to wounds in the forehead. The girl Sarah Thomas was proved to have been in the house on the Friday; Miss Jefferies had spoken of discharging her, as there was something about her she did not like. A dog was kept on the premises; it has been discovered, dead, in a place behind the house. Sarah Thomas, in a statement made to a policeman, declared that the murder was perpetrated by a female servant who formerly lived with Miss Jefferies, and who entered the house on the Saturday morning; then she and Thomas ransacked the place and divided the spoil. The mother of the prisoner Thomas stated that she came home, alone, on the afternoon of the Saturday, bringing a trunk and bonnet-box. She subsequently brought more boxes and bundles home. A porter living in Trenchard-street saw a man and a young woman come out of Miss Jefferies's house on the Saturday. The man carried off a red box on his shoulders; the woman had some bundles. On Thursday, a verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned against Thomas.

TREASURE TROVE.—Mr. Grange, a farmer of Whaddon Chase, in Buckinghamshire, has ploughed up a gold deposit. As he was breaking up soil that had been woodland for centuries, he turned up a number of cubes of gold, of the value of £300, or more. They are claimed by the lord of the manor, and a coroner's jury is to hold an inquest of treasure-trove.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC OPINION IN WALES ON STATE EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I was glad to see that my old and worthy friend, the Rev. D. Rees, Llanelly, had the moral courage to attach his name to his observations, in your last number, upon my communication. Too much has been written anonymously upon the all-important subject of education.

I may premise, by assuring Mr. Rees that I made no statement but what I believed, upon the best evidence within my reach, to be true; and most readily would I now acknowledge any mistake into which I might have fallen, had my friend produced the slightest evidence of my having committed one. He meets all my statements with a simple and direct negative! Whatever importance may be attached to my affirmation, it cannot be nullified by a direct negation. I have made my statements; and whenever my worthy friend condescends to attempt their refutation, I shall be prepared to corroborate them. The *onus probandi* lies, in this instance, with him.

One circumstance, however, in Mr. Rees's letter, calls for particular attention, and for which I can only account, by taking into consideration the peculiarly excited state in which he says he penned his remarks; when, in his own language, his "heart was hot within" him, and while he "was musing the fire burned," &c. The passages which he cites from my letter are either misstated or garbled! I would not insinuate for a moment that it was done intentionally. For instance, "It is not a fact that the committee of the Normal College for Wales have been agitating the whole country for two years." I never said so. My words are, "Those who are opposed to receiving any pecuniary aid for educational purposes have, for the last two years, been exceedingly active in agitating this question, but have met with little sympathy," &c. Then I instanced, as a proof of this, the reports given in the *Principality* of the progress of the late deputation, &c., where the meetings were generally stated to be "thinly attended."

Mr. Rees proceeds to cite my supposed statements again by remarking, "It is not a fact that the mass of the people are disgusted and feel no interest in the Normal College, but are disposed to receive aid from the taxes of the country." This, again, cannot be found in my letter, although introduced as a quotation!! Neither is the next sentence, although also marked as a quotation. It is not a fact, that only "a fraction, or nineteen-twentieths of the Dissenters support the intended Normal College." I only use the words "nineteen-twentieth" once, and that in reference to the feelings of Dissenters in *Carmarthen*, as regards Government aid.

The following sentence is also sadly mutilated, and attributed to me in its garbled form. It is not a fact—"That the great body of Calvinistic Methodists are favourable to Government aid, and that the majority of Independents and Baptists hold similar views." My words are, "It is well known that the Wesleyans are favourable to Government aid; so also is the great body of the Calvinistic Methodists; and my experience would certainly justify the conclusion that the majority of the Independents and Baptists hold similar views."

When the sentiments of any party are combated it is but justice that their language should be carefully cited; and I must beg of my friend Mr. Rees, should he ever again feel disposed to offer any comments upon any observations of mine, that he should exercise some degree of care and discretion in making his quotations. Verbal accuracy, in citations, are very often absolutely necessary in order to convey the exact meaning of the author.

I may be allowed to state that I am not an advocate for exclusively secular education. In my opinion, the Government has no right to offer or provide anything but secular education for the poor; and all religious instruction should be left to the voluntary principle, that is, to the management of local committees, &c. Each denomination would willingly provide the necessary religious education. Nor do I believe that any self-constituted body, whatever may be its creed, has a greater right than the Government to control the religious education of the country. Different sects may singly or conjointly unite for the purpose of providing education for the children of their own poor, but they have not, as sectarians, any right to set themselves forth as the only legitimate educationists "of Wales," or any other country.

March 1st.

AN IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me, through your columns, to record a few facts which may serve as a warning to my brethren in the ministry.

A person called upon me on Thursday, the 1st ult., inviting me to visit a young lady (Miss Lafère), the daughter of a clergyman at Charlton, who was lying dangerously ill. It was represented to me that Miss L., while on a visit to Westminster, eleven months since, sought shelter from a shower of rain in Romney-street Chapel, where she was seriously impressed by the preaching of the word, and, after subsequent attendance at the same place, savingly converted to God. Theatres, balls, and other gaieties, were abandoned, and the addresses of a gentleman declined on the ground of his worldly character. In the course of her illness she had often requested to see me, but not until life was despaired of could permission be obtained. I immediately promised to attend to the case, and the day fixed for my visit was the following Tuesday, when, at three o'clock, the family carriage was to be in attendance at my house. On the Sabbath evening, however, the same person came to inform me that her friend was dead! She gave a most interesting account of Miss Lafère's last moments, when, by urgent entreaty, a promise was obtained from the family to attend our place of worship on the next Sabbath, that they might hear the truth which made her free. By the advice of a friend, I called upon a neighbouring minister who had, some months since, been deceived by a similar tale, when I discovered that the individual who had come to me had played her deceitful tricks elsewhere. She was identified in my vestry last Thursday evening by a lady, who had known her as an impostor since last autumn. Ministers will do well to beware of one, whose object seems to be to injure the characters of the brethren, and thus to bring religion

itself into disrepute. The proofs of this last statement are such as delicacy forbids me publicly to reveal. Miss Axford (that is, I believe, her real name) is short, respectable in appearance, intelligent, and rapid in speech. I shall be happy to furnish her address to any one who may next be selected as the object of her deceptions.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

HENRY J. BETTS.

1, Roehampton-street, Vauxhall Bridge road.

P.S.—I have been made the means, by the direction of a remarkable providence, of discovering another plot formed by Miss Axford to beguile a City missionary during the present week.

PROPOSED STATUE OF OLIVER CROMWELL AT ST. IVES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The friends of civil and religious liberty, and all who revere the memory of Oliver Cromwell, will be pleased to hear that measures are likely to be taken by a committee at St. Ives, to appeal to the country for funds to erect a monument to the memory of the great Protector.

St. Ives was the place at which Cromwell resided at the commencement of his public career, and his signature still exists upon the church-books. Slepe Hall (the site of his house), has just been pulled down; and the liberal portion of the inhabitants think, that upon that spot the monument should be erected.

I trust that the promoters of this movement will be able to lay their plan before the country almost immediately. To carry it out will require but a little effort. A few pounds from each town will accomplish it; and, when completed, a gathering of the friends of civil and religious liberty must take place at St. Ives, to honour the memory of Cromwell, and to give an impulse to their important cause.

I am, yours sincerely,

HENRY VINCENT.

Fellenberg House, Stamford Hill,
March 19, 1849.

THE ARBITRATION MOVEMENT.—A meeting of the friends of peace, and the settlement of national disputes by arbitration instead of the sword, took place in Manchester, on Wednesday last, in the Free-trade Hall, on which occasion this spacious building was filled to suffocation, and hundreds—perhaps it may be said with truth, that thousands—could not obtain admittance, and that long before the proceedings commenced. But few of the most ardent friends of this movement, perhaps not one, anticipated so overflowing an audience—certainly no one could reasonably have anticipated that the Peace Society had taken such deep and general hold on the public mind. George Wilson, Esq., occupied the chair. Rhys Stephens, Esq., one of the officers of the society, moved the first resolution, with great talent and energy, which was seconded by George Hatfield, Esq., followed by Elihu Burritt, in one of his masterly speeches, to which the meeting warmly responded. The second resolution was moved by the Rev. J. Peters, seconded by Wm. Morris, Esq., and supported by Mr. Richards, an officer of the institution, in a most effective address. The third resolution was moved by Thomas Bazley, Esq., seconded by Sir Elkanah Armitage, and supported by Henry Vincent, Esq., in a speech believed to be the most splendid ever heard from the lips of this celebrated orator—the peroration was positively electrifying. The meeting, as a whole, will long be remembered by the thousands assembled on the occasion.—*Leeds Mercury*.—[Meetings of a similar character have been held during the past week at Bristol, Devonport, and Portman-square. At Devonport the chairman, Rev. J. Pyer, stated, that simultaneously with Mr. Cobden having given notice of a motion for special treaties of arbitration in the British Parliament, a member of the National Assembly in France had given similar notice, and a member of Congress in America had expressed his intention of availing himself of the earliest day to bring before that body a similar motion. Thus the three largest countries in Christendom were at once taking the same practical course for terminating the war-system and establishing peace. At Liverpool a town's meeting is to be held. The *Mercury* says:—"Though Liverpool is late in the field, she is not unconscious of her duty with regard to the admirable movement now being made to secure the triumph of reason and peace among nation."]

PEOPLE'S LEAGUE AT SYDENHAM.—At this place, on Monday, the 11th inst., in connexion with some members of the executive committee, an interesting meeting was held at the "Bee Hive," at which several of the most zealous reformers resident in that neighbourhood attended. The persons present, after hearing a statement of the plan recommended by the People's League, from Messrs. Linwood, Robertson, and another member of the committee, who exerted himself with considerable success in the cause, agreed to form themselves into a committee for carrying out the objects proposed. Every resolution was passed unanimously, in which it was determined to get up petitions limited to twenty signatures, and based on the principle of manhood suffrage. The zeal and unanimity that was evinced on this occasion, was highly gratifying, and left no doubt on the minds of all present that much good would be effected.

DEATH OF THE BLACK PRINCE.—Louis Christophe, the *soi-disant* Prince of Hayti, who figured so prominently towards the close of last year at some of our Police-courts, died on Sunday week, in the workhouse of St. George's-in-the-East, and was buried there on Wednesday. The Black Prince, as he called himself, had been several times committed as a rogue and vagabond, and had been for some time in the workhouse.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

THE NEW ELECTIONS.—In the National Assembly on Thursday the Electoral Law was finally passed by an immense majority. The President of the Assembly then announced that the elections would take place on the 13th of May, and that the Legislative Assembly would be ready to meet on the 27th, but as that day falls on Sunday, the first sitting would take place on Monday, May 28.

THE BUDGET.—In the National Assembly on Saturday a discussion took place with regard to the expenditure and resources of the country, although the budget itself has not yet been presented by the Minister of Finance, nor have the reports upon the separate budgets of the different ministries been made by the respective committees nominated for that purpose. M. Passy, the Minister of Finance, stated that the taxes were being easily collected, and that the indirect revenues during the first two months were only inferior by 6,700,000*fr.* to those of the corresponding period of 1848. The receipts during the first fortnight of March had even presented a surplus of 1,880,000*fr.* The Minister was now certain that all the services would be amply provided for in 1849, and that the deficit would not amount to the 245 millions announced by the committee. He had at one moment felt some apprehension of not being able to pay the dividend on the five per cents. and the pensions due in March, without being obliged to have recourse to the Bank of France, but he had the satisfaction to inform the Assembly that he had found means to effect that payment with the sole resources of the Treasury. Industry and trade, added M. Passy, had resumed an extraordinary degree of activity, and if circumstances continued the same, as he was confident they would, the receipts must become every day more productive. The financial situation of the country had inspired serious apprehensions. He had himself felt greatly alarmed, but the prospect now offered itself under such favourable auspices, that he was completely reassured. M. Leon Faucher moved the passing to the order of the day, which was agreed to by a majority of 359—the debate being adjourned till Monday.

M. Leon Faucher, Minister of the Interior, then moved that the bill for regulating the clubs should be placed the first on the order of the day of Monday. This motion, opposed by the members of the Left, was carried by a majority of 403 to 315.

THE COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT AND ARBITRATION met to-day to hear the report of M. Sarrans. It was proposed to refer the measure to government; but on a discussion, in which MM. Gustave de Beaumont, Sarrans, Bouvet, and Buignier, took part, the majority decided that a report should be prepared approving the principle, but rejecting the proposition under present circumstances.

EXECUTION OF THE MURDERERS OF GENERAL BRÉA.—The execution of Daix and Lahr, the two men reserved for capital punishment, for the murder of General de Bréa and Captain Mangin, took place this morning, at seven o'clock, on the spot where their victims were murdered. They were preceded and followed by strong detachments of dragons and lancers, and there was a considerable force of infantry round the place of execution. After the execution the bodies were removed for interment, followed by the priests who had attended the men to the scaffold. The sentence of death pronounced upon Choppart, Nourry, and Vappreaux, jun., has been commuted by the President of the Republic, with the advice of the Council of State, to imprisonment for life with hard labour.

THE ELECTORAL CLUB of the Rue de Poitiers has published its manifesto. It was read to the club on Friday evening by M. Thiers, and was received with coldness. It is signed by seventy-three of the principal leaders of the Legitimists, Orleanists, and Bonapartists leaders. The Bonapartists, however, form two parties. M. Larochejacquelin has addressed a letter to the electors of France, in which he explains his reasons for separating himself from the Club of the Rue de Poitiers. He states that his adhesion to the club was coupled with conditions which he could not accept. A convoy of 268 emigrants to Algiers left Paris on Saturday for Lyons, where they were to be joined by 200 others.

GAITY IN PARIS.—A magnificent fete was given by President Buonaparte, on Thursday night. Upwards of 2,200 persons were present. The *Times* correspondent observes that, "Fetes, concerts, banquets, and balls, are becoming so numerous, are given on so large a scale, and attract such crowds, as to almost require the daily labours of a Minister for that department alone. Confidence has made rapid advances in the public mind."

The *Moniteur* contains a decree appointing Admiral Bruat Governor-General of the French Antilles.

The cholera has been at length formally declared in Paris. It does not appear, however, at present to have assumed any formidable epidemic character.

SPAIN.

NARROW ESCAPE OF CABRERA.—Accounts from Madrid are of the 10th inst. The bishops and superior clergy had abandoned one-tenth of their salaries for the benefit of the Pope. The inferior clergy would, it was believed, follow their example. The *Gazette* publishes a despatch of the Commander of Lerida, dated the 7th inst., announcing that the former Carlist chief, Pons, now brigadier in the Queen's army, had surprised Cabrera, near San Lorenzo de Morunys, killed three of his men, and

captured eleven, with thirty muskets, a quantity of ammunition, one of the horses, and the baggage of Cabrera, his papers, seals, &c. Cabrera effected his escape, with three horsemen, in the direction of La Coma. The Queen's troops pursued him, and destroyed the salt-works and the hospital the Carlists had established at La Coma. Pons is stimulated in his pursuit of the Carlist chief by the desire to revenge the death of his brother, who was barbarously shot by Cabrera.

NAPLES AND SICILY.

KING FERDINAND'S OFFER TO THE SICILIANS.—King Ferdinand has issued a proclamation to the Sicilians, calling upon them to return to obedience, to resume the cultivation of the land, and promising to promulgate a new constitution upon the basis of 1812, with such modifications as are demanded by the pressure of the times. The substance of this new statute is to be individual liberty, the guarantee of personal property, which is inviolable, unless the welfare of the public should render its legal acquisition necessary; and liberty of the press, with restrictions to prevent the abuse of the same. Sicily is to remain an integral part of the United Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, with a constitutional monarchy. The new constitution contains many provisions obnoxious to the Sicilians. In the first place the king abolishes the hereditary peerage of Sicily. He will allow of municipal freedom, no more than of aristocratic rights. He insists on introducing the French levelling and centralising system over all, administering provinces and villages by prefect and police. The Sicilians, moreover, had a *habeas corpus* law, and trial by jury. These, and all other liberties, disappear under the new constitution. The electoral qualification required is absurdly high, and professional votes, at present admitted, are excluded by the charter. The grand objection of the Sicilians is, however, to the article fixing the amount of the budget. By this one article, the king in reality assumes the entire and uncontrolled power of the legislature and the government. As the Sicilians are hereby bound, whether they choose or not, to provide the requisite quota for the military, naval, and diplomatic expenditure, it follows of course that the taxes may be raised, independently of the authority of the Sicilian parliament.

The *Daily News* says:—We regret to state that advices from Palermo of the 8th, announce the determination of the Sicilians to reject the Neapolitan ultimatum. The English and French fleets reached Palermo on the 6th, and on the following day transmitted to the Prince of Butera the missive of his Majesty the King of Naples. The answer was not publicly announced on the 8th, but the universal opinion was that the constitution was utterly unacceptable, and that the only alternative was war. The admirals declared that they would stay to the last moment of there being hope of an accommodation. The Sicilians look to none.

In Naples itself, the two Chambers and the Cabinet are so much at variance, that the latter has represented to the King the impossibility of continuing the government without a dissolution and new elections, and the King, it is said, accedes. The Chambers refuse to vote the taxes—will the present ministry remain in office?

SARDINIA.

EXPIRATION OF THE ARMISTICE WITH AUSTRIA.

A letter from Turin, to the *Patrie* of the 14th, says:—

The King, yesterday, received the visit of Lord Abercrombie, the British Minister, who endeavoured to arrest the King in the course he was taking. The King answered him warmly, and nearly in these terms:—"To please you, M. Ambassador, I signed last year the armistice at Salasco, which was a disgrace to me. I stopped at the Adige, and submitted to a mediation, which is charged against me as a treason. Since the 7th of May our situation is intolerable. The sacrifices which we bear are more onerous than war; and I have still closed my ears to the sufferings of the Lombards and Venetians. What have you done for me? Nothing! for you would not even interpose when Austria violated the armistice. You have, by your silence, approved these violations of the right of nations. Now that we are plunged in an abyss, ought we to resign ourselves to remain in it? No, M. Ambassador, no! I prefer seeing my crown shivered by cannon balls to being hooted in the streets. At all events, if I must succumb, my fall shall be honourable for myself and my people." The same letter announces, that M. Bois le Comte having presented himself to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, received for reply, "It is too late; Major Cadorna is gone to Milan to denounce the armistice."

The departure of the King for the army took place at midnight on the 13th. He has no command, and appears in the uniform of a Savoyard colonel. The departure of all the troops in garrison at Turin took place on the morning of the 14th, and their posts were occupied by the National Guard.

The armistice was denounced at noon on the 12th, at Milan, and nearly at the same time at Turin. Hostilities were expected to be re-commenced to-day, the 21st. On the 13th, the Sardinian Minister of Foreign Affairs notified the denunciation of the armistice to the Ministers of France and England in a detailed note. M. Ferrari concluded by saying, that the mediation of France and England would be more efficacious in future, when new hostilities would have taught Austria the necessity of treating on the basis of an honourable peace. The Lombards have been placed in the advanced ranks, at their particular desire.

ROME.

ABOLITION OF THE INQUISITION.—On the 28th of February an edict of the executive triumvir was ratified by the National Assembly, to the following effect:—"The tribunal of the holy office [inqui-

sition] is for ever abolished in Rome. A pillar commemorative of this act shall be erected on the piazza in front of the building hitherto desecrated to such unholy object, that posterity may not forget this solemn deed. The Minister of Public Works is charged with the execution thereof." The only prisoners found, when the Government officers broke into the concern, were two nuns undergoing incarceration for misdemeanours which, in the case of a Roman Vestal, were punished by living burial. There was also found a bishop, or at least a man who had given himself out as one, and had acted in that capacity in Syria and Egypt until detected as an impostor. He had been rotting in this dungeon for the last twenty-five years. All records were found burnt, and traces of recent incineration were very perceptible.

STATE OF FEELING.—PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—The intelligent correspondent of the *Daily News* writes from Rome as follows:—"Every activity is displayed in the war department; and, come what may, it will be no child's work to put down this revolution. There are 130,000 men here with muskets in their hands; there are about 15,000 more armed men in Tuscany; and any intervention that takes place, must not be under a force of 40,000 regular troops, to be kept here for an indefinite period; and who's to pay? All the coach-makers in my part of the town are employed in making artillery waggons. Nothing is heard but the

'Clank of hammers closing rivets up.'

as on the night before Bosworth battle. The flippancy with which folk talk of 'intervention,' as if it were a mere foraging excursion of some ten thousand troops, to come and go with a *veni, vidi, vici*, is marvellously absurd. The doings of the last three months have created a spirit here, which a whole century would not develop in any other circumstances; and to a person on the spot, conversant with the feelings of all classes of society here, nothing is more lamentably ludicrous than the Neapolitan speculations of the *Times*' correspondent, and the wind-bags of inflated rhetoric put forth as leaders in the *Chronicle*."

GIOBERTI.—Three months, three little months, and the Hôtel d'Angleterre, at Rome, conceived itself so honoured by having him for an inmate, passing as was the glory of his visit, that it placed a guard of honour, in compliment to him, at his door: the next street, catching "the soft infection," was delighted to change its name, in consequence of its proximity, from Via Borgognona (which conveyed no other recollection to the passer-by than that of an atrocious murder, committed in it some few years ago, by a woman of her husband, with the assistance of a priest) to Via Gioberti. But, alas! for the mutability of human things, already is the name erased: covered with an ominous veil of black paint, and in its place is written "*Gioberti, il traditore d'Italia*."—*Daily News*.

M. Mazzini took his seat in the Constituent Assembly on the 6th. On the same day the Assembly adopted the following resolution:—

The Roman Assembly, being convinced that the Roman and Tuscan people desire the union of their two states; that that political union, instead of absorbing social life, will spread liberty through all the branches of the same trunk, and that a constitution must be based on municipal liberties, invites the Tuscan people to send their deputies to the Roman Assembly.

A ministerial modification took place at Rome on the 7th. M. Sturbinetti replaced M. Mazzarelli, M. Montecchi succeeded M. Sterbini, and M. Manzoni M. Guiccioli, who was appointed Envoy Extraordinary to Venice.

CENTRAL GERMANY.

THE HEADSHIP OF THE EMPIRE.

The question of an united Germany has suddenly assumed a new phase in Frankfort. Mr. Welcker takes the initiative. He is the leader of those thirty members of the right who hitherto stood out for a Directory instead of an Emperor, in order to afford Austria some participation in the Imperial Government. He has now abandoned this cherished opinion, and has given notice of a string of resolutions asserting that the Empire is in danger, and declaring that "the hereditary dignity of Emperor of Germany, as determined in the revised code of constitution, shall be conferred on his Majesty the King of Prussia;" inviting "his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, as sovereign over the German-Austrian lands, and the kindred races inhabiting those lands, singly and collectively, to enter into the German Federal State;" solemnly and eternally protesting "against any and every right assumed by the Government of the German-Austrian lands, or by those lands themselves, to detach itself or themselves from the German fatherland, and from the constitution resolved upon by its collective will."

"A tremendous sensation was occasioned in the Frankfort Assembly on the 12th instant when these resolutions were read;" for many minutes the proceedings of the House were suspended, and members conversed animatedly in groups. Welcker ascended the tribune, and supported the urgency of his motion.

"I wished," he said, "to be convinced before I went to extremes. Willingly will I give my political friends the glory of having seen further than I did; but they must allow me also to be proud of having delayed the rupture with Austria so long as it was consistent with the welfare of our fatherland to do so. We have waited till to wait longer would be a crime [great cheering]. Shall I suppose that you will wait and hesitate till the intrigues of Cabinets have grown too powerful for you? No; wait or yield we will not. We will stand up in one consolidated body confronting foreign powers; and if the contest comes, Germany shall be victorious." [Im-

mense cheering both from the members and from the Strangers' Gallery].

An attempt was made to recur to the order of the day; but the excitement caused by Welcker's motion was so great that the President was obliged to state that he would fix an early day for its discussion, and forthwith adjourn the House.

The *Deutsche Zeitung* publishes the text of a note, dated on the 9th instant, from the Prince Schwartzsenberg to the Frankfort Cabinet, which is said to have been the cause of Welcker's changed policy, and of his motion of the 12th; and also to have caused Baron Schmerling's resignation of his post as Austrian Plenipotentiary at Frankfort. Prince Schwartzsenberg adverts to the contents of the programme of the 27th November last, and to a copy of the decree on the fundamental rights of the Austrians which he enclosed, and proceeds as follows in regard to the relations which Austria thinks possible between herself and Germany.

Austria, placed upon her own power and constitution, cannot tear her provinces away from that close union which alone makes the Monarchy one single body. If Germany should prove blind to this argument, the Imperial Government would grieve, but it would not on that account resign the first conditions of its existence. The Imperial Government has already expressed its views on the question of the Head of the German Empire. Those views comprehend the division of the empire in large bodies, represented within themselves by popular elections, placing their Deputies around the Central Power, and consulting and fostering the interests common to all. They comprehend, therefore, a House proceeding from indirect elections, and unrestrained by a popular representation above its head and at its side.

Austria is prepared to be one of the said bodies, and to take a seat in the committees elected by the Governments and their Diets, and to promote the common interests by word and deed. But, if her views are not acceded to, Austria is determined to fly from the dangers with which the conflict of the Powers must necessarily threaten the whole empire.

On the 15th, M. Reisser presented to the Assembly the report of the committee on M. Welcker's motion. The Report approves of the proposal to adopt the constitution as it stands, without further discussion of details, with a slight verbal alteration of the first paragraph, and a modification of the number of members in the Chambers of States. It proposes to pass in like manner the electoral law, restoring the system of open voting, and slightly altering the number of members in the representative chamber. Lastly, it approves of the proposal to declare the King of Prussia hereditary Emperor, and to invite the Sovereign and people of Germany to sanction the arrangement, leaving it open to the German Austrian states to join the Germanic union at any future period. The committee propose that the Assembly shall declare its sittings permanent until a Diet, elected according to the provisions of the constitution, shall have been convoked and opened. Saturday, the 17th, was fixed as the day to open the debate.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

THE REFRACTORY DEPUTIES.—Vienna, March 8.—The Diet is dissolved; the soldiers surrounded the Palace at Kremsier, while Count Stadion convoked a number of the members of the right and right centre. He immediately made known to them the Imperial resolution to give the whole Monarchy a constitution, which he laid before them, and at the same time to dissolve the Diet. All the members, without exception, protested against this measure. There was an early sitting at seven o'clock in the morning. At eight o'clock the imperial proclamation dissolving the Diet was appended to the walls of the palace and other public places in Kremsier. Three battalions of soldiers had meanwhile arrived. The door of the hall of the Assembly was closed, and guarded by the soldiers. The deputies were permitted only to go to the bureau of the President to receive their certificates, and only five members were admitted at a time; others who attempted to effect an entrance were held back by crossed bayonets. The deputies Fischhof and Pratz were immediately arrested. M. Lohner and several others were hotly pursued, but effected their escape. Reports on this point, however, are contradictory. Fischhof and Pratz arrived at Vienna on the 8th under a strong escort.

HUNGARY.—DEFEAT OF THE AUSTRIANS.—The decided successes of the Hungarians can no longer be concealed; the very journals that formerly trumpeted Windischgrätz's sham victories, now ridicule him for his failure. The following is an extract from a letter dated Pesth, March 9:—The Ban left on the 8th, at four in the morning. Windischgrätz has moved all disposable troops, and even a good portion of the corps employed to besiege Komorn fortress, towards the Theiss, to stop the march, if possible, of the victorious Hungarians. On the 8th, a fight must have taken place in the direction of Szolnok, for during the night a great many waggons arrived with wounded. Also, the lines of the Danube by the bridge of Pesth were filled with troops, evidently in the view of covering a precipitate retreat. The officers of the Ofen garrison have sent away their wives. In the first encounter at Szolnok, the Grammont brigade of 5,000 strong, was completely surrounded by the Magyars, and part cut down, and part taken prisoners. Grammont was amongst the taken. The general of the cavalry, Ottinger, died of his wounds at Pesth, on the 5th inst. In another engagement, on the 3rd of March, the General Zeisberg was taken prisoner, with his whole division. In this affair, the Austrians lost 60 pieces of artillery, and 9,000 men. The Magyars had passed the Danube at Tolna, and threatened the main corps in the rear. Hence the precipitate retreat to Pesth. It was in contemplation to make a

stand at Ofen, and to abandon Pesth. The retreat of the Austrians was little less than flight. It is even said that Ofen will not be held longer than is necessary to cover the retreat.

PRUSSIA.

THREATENED RUPTURE WITH RUSSIA.

"There is no longer the least doubt," writes a Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News*, "that a note has been received here from St. Petersburg declaring the intention of the Czar to interfere in Germany on behalf of menaced sovereignty; and founding the right of interference on the treaties of 1815. The answer from Berlin to the Czar's note is, that the first step of interference on the part of Russia will be the signal for a declaration of war on the part of Prussia. This answer is already on its way to St. Petersburg, and in about ten days we shall have the Russian reply—peace or war. Meanwhile, all the orders for the movements of the troops are already drawn up and signed, and wait only the date to be issued for fulfilment. Armaments are forming on the most extensive scale."

HOLLAND.

DEATH OF THE KING.

William II., King of the Netherlands, died at the Hague, on Saturday last, of inflammation of the lungs. He had only completed his 57th year in October last. The late King was educated in England, and had been in every relation intimately connected with this country. Having been driven from Holland, with his father, on the foundation of the Batavian Republic, he was placed under the charge of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and received his education from that prelate. At the age of nineteen he was appointed, as Prince of Orange, a lieutenant-colonel of the British army, and served as extra aide-de-camp with the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula from 1811 to 1814. He was present at the sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, and the battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Nivelle. He commanded the Dutch troops in the campaign of 1815, and the 1st Corps d'Armée at the battle of Waterloo, in which he was severely wounded, after having taken an active part in the preceding engagements. His conduct in reference to the Belgian revolution in 1830, and the protracted negotiations to which it gave rise, are too well known to require notice here. He acceded to the throne in 1840, upon his father's abdication. The late King married, in 1816, the sister of the present Emperor of Russia. His eldest son, William, who is married to a daughter of the King of Wurtemberg, is at present in London.

RUSSIA.

The *Concordia* has a letter from Petersburg of the 23rd ult., asserting that the Russo-Austrian alliance is based on the following stipulations:—A marriage between the Emperor of Austria and the Grand Princess Anne; an offensive and defensive alliance; the reception of Turkey into this alliance; the maintenance of the treaties of 1815; a guarantee for the claims of Russia on the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

The *Pesth Courier* says:—"We learn from St. Petersburg, by a special conveyance, that the Emperor of Russia, at a review of 40,000 men of the guards, said publicly to the troops, that the circumstances of the Austrian empire required that he should place at the disposal of his friend, the Emperor of Austria, a portion of his military power. This announcement was received by the 40,000 guards with thundering shouts of 'Long live the Emperor of Austria.'"

BRAZIL.

BATTLE AT PERNAMBUCO.—The arrival of the "Columbus," Captain Green, places us in possession of important accounts from the Brazils. Early on the morning of the 2nd ult., the city was attacked on different points by a number of men from the country; severe fighting was maintained all the afternoon, when the Government received timely aid from a body of troops under the command of General Coelho. The besiegers were then forced to retire, leaving many dead and wounded in the street. The returns of the casualties were not correctly ascertained on either side, but it is said that they amount to some hundreds; and four hundred rebels were taken prisoners. When the "Columbus" sailed, the city was in full and quiet possession of the Government, by whom between two hundred and three hundred of the most influential of the citizens were arrested.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT-WESTERN RAILWAY.—An accident of a most extraordinary nature occurred last evening on the Great-Western Railway. As the short train which runs between Bath and Bristol, leaving the latter place at half-past 7, was approaching the Keynsham station, by some means, as yet unexplained, the engine became disengaged from the carriages. The driver, not aware of the circumstance, ran on, and pulled up as usual at the station. Within a minute, however, the carriages came rushing on, perfectly unrestrained, and a violent collision took place. Fortunately, no life was lost; but one passenger was so much injured that he could not proceed on his journey. The carriages were much injured, the glasses and lamps completely shattered; but, most extraordinary, neither engine nor carriages were thrown off the rails.—*Devizes Gazette*.

CORONERSHIP FOR MANCHESTER.—The meeting of the Manchester Town Council for the appointment of a coroner took place on Wednesday, when Mr. Herford, the deputy Town-clerk, was appointed by a large majority.

DISCOVERY OF THE SUPPOSED REMAINS OF MARTYRS IN SMITHFIELD.—On Wednesday, during the progress of excavations in Smithfield market, opposite the entrance to the church of St. Bartholomew the Great, for the formation of a sewer, when about three feet below the surface, the workmen came upon a heap of unhewn stones, blackened as if by fire, and covered with ashes and human bones, charred and partially consumed. The remains thus discovered are supposed to be those of martyrs burnt at the stake. Many bones were carried away as relics.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE EDINBURGH APPRENTICE SCHOOLS have sent us an interesting report of the annual meeting of their classes, lately held in the Music-hall of Edinburgh. Mr. Sheriff Gordon presiding; Mr. Charles Cowan, M.P., and a number of the leading citizens, being present. The Edinburgh Apprentice Schools were established some five years since, with the aim of affording opportunities for prosecuting education to persons who had been deprived of the opportunity of training in youth, by being forced too early to turn to the business of earning their livelihood. Reading, writing, arithmetic, algebra, practical mathematics, book-keeping, and English grammar, are taught at a fee of 1s. 3d. a month. Nor is the moral training neglected. The pupils consist of mechanics, clerks, shopmen, and domestic servants, of ages from fourteen and under up to sixty. In one of the schools there are to be seen, in the same class with juvenile apprentices, five individuals of forty, and one of sixty years of age. Many of the pupils are married men with numerous families; and, in some cases, a father is seen attending the same class with one or two of his sons. This meritorious institution seems very worthy of encouragement and imitation. We observe, that the pamphlet report has been published at a cheap rate, for purchase and distribution by master manufacturers and tradesmen throughout the country.

GORHAM V. THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—It is probable that judgment will be given in this important case, early in the ensuing term, which commences on the 15th of April.

LIBERTY IN THE CHURCH.—We have just heard that the Bishop of London has given a gentle intimation to the Rev. E. Craig, who presided at the meeting held at Exeter-hall, on Monday, to sympathize with Mr. Shore, that his conduct is highly disapproved of by his diocese; and that Mr. Craig has duly acknowledged the receipt of his lordship's letter in a manly reply.—*Patriot*.

REDUCTION IN THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.—A public meeting, of a large and respectable character, was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the Court-house, Leeds, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of a much larger reduction in the estimates of the public expenditure than that proposed by her Majesty's Ministers. The meeting was convened by the mayor of the borough, in compliance with a requisition containing the signatures of about 600 merchants and tradesmen. John Hope Shaw, Esq., the mayor, presided. The various resolutions were moved and seconded by Messrs. George Goodman, Alderman Carbutt, Plint, W. B. Holdsworth, E. Baines, Alderman Bower, and Councillors Brooke and Wilson. The resolutions characterised the present expenditure as oppressive, profuse, and unnecessary; that the colonies, if rightly governed, would be self-supporting, and that the removal of all impediments to commercial intercourse, and the adoption of arbitration, would be the best guarantees against war. A petition to Parliament was adopted embodying those sentiments.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The further public proceedings of this Association, already arranged for, are as follow:—Public meeting at Wakefield, on Friday next; Manchester, on Monday; Leeds, Tuesday; Sheffield and Pontefract, Wednesday; Bradford, Thursday; and Islington, Friday in next week. Also, in the same week, Pershore, Gloucester, and Evesham. On Friday, April 13th, Mr. Vincent visits Newcastle-on-Tyne, on his way to Scotland, where he will be joined by Mr. Miall. The meetings in that country will take place in the following order:—Monday, April 16th, Edinburgh; Tuesday, Dundee; Wednesday, Aberdeen; Thursday, Perth; and Friday, Glasgow. The annual meeting of the Council takes place on Tuesday, May 1st; and the annual public meeting, at Painsbury Chapel (Exeter-hall being again refused), on Wednesday the 2nd.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, March 21, Two o'clock.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

THE OVERLAND MAIL brings advices from Bombay to the 17th of February. The intelligence from the seat of war is of no great moment, but we have details of the surrender of Mooltan. The fort was entered immediately on the surrender, and disgraceful scenes of plundering ensued. The city has been since held to ransom for £200,000. The property found in the fort—said to amount to above a million sterling—will, it is believed, be made over to the Durbar, and be by them, of course, made over to us, in part payment of the expenses of the war. The camp of the Governor-General was at Ferozepore. The troops from Mooltan are expected to reach Lord Gough's camp about the 20th inst. The Commander-in-Chief has remained, up to Feb. 3rd, in a state of profound inactivity since the bloody and bootless victory of the 13th January. He was up to that date engaged in throwing up field-works, and fortifying

his camp, pending the arrival of reinforcements. Five additional European regiments, with some 19,000 troops in all, are on their way to join him, and he will speedily be at the head of 40,000 men, in the presence of an inferior enemy (30,000 in number). One great battle may be looked for after the junction, when the troops, it is said, will prepare to go into quarters. Peshawur, Attock, the Hazareh Country, and Bunnoo, can scarcely be reduced and garrisoned before next cold season. India everywhere was tranquil, and nowhere, save within the country of the Five Rivers, was anything stirring worthy of special notice.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

In the House of Lords yesterday the Earl of ARDEN gave notice that on Thursday next he should move for information with respect to the renewal of war in the north of Italy.

The business transacted was of quite an unimportant character.

In the House of Commons, Mr. G. THOMPSON postponed his motion on the subject of the war in the Punjab until that day fortnight.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. WODEHOUSE, observed that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce any measure for the equalization of the land-tax, inasmuch as such a course would be attended with great injustice at a time when the land-tax had been commuted to a certain fixed sum, with a power of redemption.

Mr. HORSMAN then proceeded to submit the following motion with reference to the livings of Bishop Wearmouth and Sunderland:—

That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to issue a commission of inquiry into the allegations contained in the petitions presented to this House from the parishioners of Bishop Wearmouth and Sunderland; and that the said commissioners be directed to take into consideration the agreement stated in Parliament on the authority of the patron of the living of Bishop Wearmouth to have been entered into between himself and the present incumbent, whereby the surplus income of the living, over and above the sum of £3,000 a year, reserved as the income of the incumbent, is to be paid over to trustees; and to report on the best mode of appropriating that surplus to spiritual purposes connected with the two parishes, and of giving legal effect to such appropriation.

The hon. member prefaced his observations by referring to two petitions which he had presented that day, signed by 6,000 parishioners of the two towns, complaining that notwithstanding the enormous revenues of the parishes to which they belonged, the religious teaching for which those revenues were destined was withheld, and they prayed for the interposition of the House, in order to enable them to derive the advantage which the law allowed, but of which they were now deprived. After referring to the questions he had put to Lord John Russell on previous occasions relative to the living of Bishop Wearmouth, and complaining that he had been misunderstood by the noble lord, the hon. member proceeded to say, that his object had been to get from authority a confirmation of what had been stated, namely, that the patron had declared that the income was much too large for the incumbent, that it ought to be reduced, and the surplus applied to general parochial religious purposes. The object of the motion was not to impugn any proceedings of the patron, it was not antagonistic, it was prospective and not retrospective, and auxiliary to the patron, who had declared that there ought to be a redistribution of the revenues, preceded by inquiry, but which inquiry could not be carried out without the interference of Parliament.

Mr. MANGLES seconded the motion. Lord JOHN RUSSELL denied the doctrine of episcopal irresponsibility attributed to him by Mr. Horsman. There was no doubt the bishops held a public trust, and that they were bound to exercise any patronage or power they possessed, with a due regard to the service and benefit of the Church, and for the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the people committed to their charge. The noble lord then proceeded to reply to the arguments offered in support of the motion, and to make an elaborate defence of the conduct and character of the Bishop of Durham, urging that that right rev. prelate ought not to be singled out as the object of such an invidious proposition as that before the House, involving, as it did, an accusation against an individual, which, if brought at all, ought to be brought before a court of law, inasmuch as the charge was one of simoniacal practices.

After a lengthened discussion, in which Mr. Alderman THOMPSON, Mr. DISRAELI, Lord H. VANE, Lord ASHLEY, Mr. MANGLES, and Mr. B. WORTLEY, took part—almost every speaker concurring in the opinion that the Bishop should be induced to do something in the matter,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, as one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, informed the House that the revenues of the see having turned out to be larger than the Bishop expected, the right rev. prelate had set aside £2,000 a-year for the augmentation of small livings.

Mr. HORSMAN contended that the noble lord had last year given him distinct pledges as to the introduction of measures of Church-reform, and for inquiry into clerical abuses, quoting extracts from his lordship's speeches in support of that proposition.

Lord J. RUSSELL denied that he had given any such pledges, stating that the press of other important public business had prevented his bringing forward such measures as those alluded to by the hon. member.

Sir F. BARING moved the previous question, and on a division, Mr. Horsman's motion was negatived by a majority of 13; the numbers, 39 to 52.

Mr. SLANEY was proceeding to submit a resolution relative to the adoption of means for improving the working-classes, when the House was counted out shortly after eight o'clock.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, WEDNESDAY, March 21

We have to report a large arrival of Foreign Wheat since Monday, but of English Wheat, or other Grain, the supply is scanty. With the large supply of Wheat, and declining Country Markets, the trade here this morning is very quiet, so that prices are almost nominal.

Arrivals this week:—Wheat—English, 550 quarters; Foreign, 15,240 quarters. Barley—English, 1,350 quarters; Foreign, 5,330 quarters. Oats—English, 760 quarters; Foreign, 6,576 quarters. Flour—English, 2,180 sacks.

From its extensive circulation—far exceeding most of the journals of a similar character published in London—the *Nonconformist* presents a very desirable medium for Advertisements, especially those relating to Schools, Books, Articles of General Consumption, Situations, and Appeals for Philanthropic and Religious Objects. The terms are low:—

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. C." The question is absurd as it stands—the Church Establishment is not supported by an annual parliamentary vote at all.

"A. H." Past attempts prove how vain is the attempt to change a popular name, even when it incorrectly describes the thing signified. To give another name would be but to make "confusion worse confounded."

"Alpha's" verses want a little more attention to both rhyme and rhythm.

"A Pupil of Tubal Cain" next week.

"T. W. W." and "G. L. W." We have as much upon that topic as we can conveniently insert in one week's impression.

"An Old Member." We think it better to hand over his letter to the party to whom it is addressed.

"An Inquirer into Truth" should send his communication to a religious magazine.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1849.

SUMMARY.

A DEBATE on Church-rates in the House of Commons now-a-days, is quite a novelty—and the tone of that on the resolution moved by Mr. Trelawny on Tuesday se'nnight, of which we gave a full report in our Postscript last week, was far more conciliatory than has been usual. The amendment moved by Mr. P. W. Wood, clumsy as was the expedient suggested therein, was an approach, at least, to a spirit of justice, and his own speech, as well as that of the Right Hon. W. Gladstone, ex-Colonial Secretary, conceded the point, that wrong is done to Dissenters by levying this ecclesiastical impost upon them. The old fallacy, however, found many supporters, that Church-rates constitute an immemorial charge on property, and that all estates having come into the hands of present owners with this burden upon them—which, of course, was taken into account by the purchasers—it cannot be said that they pay the rates, further than, as they might pay the interest of a mortgage settled upon the land by a previous owner. Now, we have no hesitation in affirming that this view of the matter is not borne out by facts. The estate which a man possesses, or the house in which he lives, is merely the measure of his ability to pay this ecclesiastical demand. It is a tax upon persons, not property—a great proportion of it has been of recent creation—for most of the houses on which it is assessed have been built within the memory of this generation—and more than half the land has been brought under cultivation during the last century. The amount of it, if not the very existence of it, is determinable in each parish by vestry assembled. And, perhaps, there is scarcely one householder in fifty, whose liability to Church-rates makes the smallest difference in the amount of his rent. The fallacy is just one of those bold assertions which clergymen know so well how to make where money is concerned, which aspiring lawyers are always found to endorse, and which live in a Parliamentary atmosphere when it has died everywhere else. Sir Robert Peel was slippery as usual. Sir George Grey, very willing as he always is, but saw insuperable difficulties as he always does. Mr. Bright and Mr. G. Thompson were outspoken—and the Colonel pithy. But Lord John Russell was the hero of the piece. We have dealt with him in another column—and so, regretting neither the debate nor the termination of it, we pass on to other topics.

Mr. Bouverie's bill for the relief of clergymen seceding from the Church of England was read a second time, on Wednesday, after some discussion. Mr. Drummond warned the House that they were really engaged in separating the Church from the State, which, in some sense was true, just as a man may be said to be divorcing himself from his wife, when he allows her in practices which tend to shorten her life. But, on the whole, notwithstanding that some fears were expressed, and desires were not wanting of being uttered to keep the clergy till death in the bondage to which they are bound enough to submit, the bill was received

with favour. It was a little singular, however, that although the measure was suggested by proceedings in the case of Mr. Shore, and although at that moment his imprisonment was the theme of every one's conversation out of doors, his arrest was never noticed throughout the discussion—and it might have been imagined, not without some show of reason, that honourable members had bound themselves not to breathe a syllable of the disgraceful story—

"O no! we never mention him,
His name is never heard."

Mr. Disraeli's remedy for agricultural distress, or more properly, his bounty to hungry landlords, underwent further sifting on Wednesday and Thursday. To the Chancellor of the Exchequer the credit is due of having settled the Protectionist leader so thoroughly, that he left almost nothing for other members to say. There were some points in his speech in which he discovered a landlord's prejudices—but, taken as a whole, it was admirably effective—clear, full, and, although long, and abounding with facts and figures, neither prosy nor uninteresting. Mr. Christopher, Mr. Miles, the Marquis of Granby, and Mr. Newdegate, came very gallantly to the rescue of their roughly-handled leader, but it is questionable whether they did him so much service as injury. Messrs. Milner Gibson, John Bright, and Cobden, vigorously supported Mr. Hume; and Messrs. Sidney Herbert, and Goulburn, with Lord John Russell, united with Sir Charles Wood in opposing both the resolution and the amendment. Each speaker was in feather, for it was a regular field-day. We need not characterise their separate efforts. It may suffice to say, that the hoax attempted to be passed off on tenant-farmers by the resolution of the member for Buckinghamshire was turned inside out—the claim of the landed interest to a gift of what would be equivalent to somewhere about £100,000,000 was overhauled and exposed—and advice was given to the owners of the soil, if they intended to continue the exaction of high rents, that they must give over all attempts to delude the farmer into a belief that a return to protection is possible, that they must abolish game-laws, resign to their own consciences the votes of their tenants, and seek a reduction of the national expenditure. Mr. Hume's amendment was negatived by a majority of 324 in a House of 465—Mr. Disraeli's resolution, by a majority of 91, in a house of 469 members. Both the resolution and the amendment, therefore, fell to the ground.

The Navy and Army Estimates have been submitted to Parliament, after a fruitless effort on the part of Mr. Hume to obtain a prior "general financial statement of the whole expected revenues and the total intended expenditure for the ensuing financial year." The navy was represented by Mr. Ward—the army by the Hon. Fox Maule. Each gentleman went with some minuteness through the separate items, pointing out where reduction had been made, showing where it might hereafter be effected, explaining causes of increase, and defending the services from the charges of the *Times* and the Liverpool Financial Reform Association. Reductions have been made by Government in both establishments, but, as we think was clearly shown by Messrs. Hume and Cobden, in neither of them to the whole extent which is both safe and practicable. The *dilettante* ship-building was not clearly justified on Friday night—nor the amount of troops kept on home service, and in some of our colonies, on Monday night—but in neither department was Mr. Hume's proposal to diminish the number of men well supported—at least by votes. Ministers, however, it is plain, feel themselves placed once more under the screw, which Mr. Hume blamed himself for having ever relaxed. There are yet many and gross jobs in the Estimates—but annual pressure will force them to disappear. Meanwhile, it is not a little humbling, that this country consents to an expenditure of some sixteen or eighteen millions annually on "services," the strength of which encourages mischievous legislation at home, meddling in the affairs of other nations abroad, and terrible misgovernment in many of our colonies. Alas! we are still under a heavy aristocratic yoke!

Our old friend, the Vicar of Chatteris, we perceive, is getting a taste of what he so freely forced upon others. Mr. J. Fryer, of Chatteris, one of the witnesses in his favour in the trial of Gathercole v. Miall, brought an action against his ecclesiastical teacher, at the recent Cambridge Assizes, for firing off a libel against him in the shape of a pamphlet, and obtained a verdict, with sufficient damages (40s.) to carry costs. We should not have alluded to the affair, but to notice the strange charge of the Chief Baron (Sir F. Pollock) to the jury. If political partizanship ought not to sully the ermine, neither ought illiberal sectarianism. The charge reads like a defence of Mr. Gathercole, and the drift of it was obviously but unsuccessfully meant to extort a verdict for the defendant. This is no more than experience has taught us to expect from the bench where a clergyman of the Establishment is con-

cerned. But the following sentence passes the bounds of decency. "It had been stated by one of the witnesses that Mr. Gathercole had declared Dissent to be equally punishable by the Almighty with adultery and murder; and, at first sight, this might seem a startling doctrine. But what was Dissent but schism? Schism was sin, and for sin the Almighty had but one punishment. There was, therefore, nothing contrary to the Word of God in this doctrine." The Chief Baron of the Exchequer, if we may judge from this specimen, is but an indifferent theologian—but what may provoke only a smile when uttered in a pulpit, raises indignation when delivered with oracular solemnity from the judgment seat. Who could anticipate after this equal justice in any suit between a Dissenter and a clergyman? A more disreputable siding of a judge with a dominant party has not been witnessed since the time of James the Second.

A full report of the public meeting held yesterday at Exeter-hall, to sympathize with Mr. Shore and effect his liberation, appears in another part of our paper. We have not yet seen it, but we understand the meeting to have been a crowded and enthusiastic one. We may take this opportunity, however, of expressing our regret that, at the preliminary meeting reported in our last number, Mr. Binney should have gone out of his way to declare, "Costs had been incurred by Dissenters in Church-rate questions, with whom he could not sympathize, they having voluntarily sought the decision of the court." Sufferers for earnest Dissent, it seems, are never right—it is only clergymen of the Church of England who deserve commiseration. Let this pass. The facts are not as Mr. Binney has stated them. Mr. Childs, of Bungay, was cited into the Ecclesiastical Court, before a summons from the magistrate had been applied for; and Mr. Baines, of Leicester, in ousting the jurisdiction of the magistrate on the ground of the illegality of the rate, did not appeal to the court—but was dragged thither by the churchwardens—his reference to the illegality of the rate merely amounting to a refusal to be made the victim of penalties beyond what the law allowed. There was no necessity for casting a slur on these gentlemen's conduct. The case did not call for it. And were we disposed, Mr. Binney's gratuitous condemnation of the Church-rate martyrs would justify us in showing that in *their* case they had never sworn canonical obedience, and in suggesting numerous other ungracious comparisons. However, we earnestly wish Mr. Shore a triumphant issue from his sore trial.

From France we hear chiefly of fêtes and balls, and the filling of the capital with fashionable society—so completely is confidence restored in the capital. The National Constituent Assembly is approaching its end—the new Electoral Law has been promulgated in the *Moniteur*. The elections are to take place on the 13th of May, and the Legislative Assembly is to assemble on the 28th of that month. Our neighbours seem to be far more in earnest, or, at least, better able to carry their wishes into effect, than ourselves, in reference to economy in the national war-establishments. They are likely to set us a good example in this direction. We learn that the Committees of Finance and Marine having demanded a diminution of 40,000,000 francs in the budget of marine, the Minister of the latter department has been obliged to make the following reductions:—Captains of ships of the line, from 110 to 100; Captains of frigates from 230 to 210; Lieutenants, from 650 to 600. The Marine artillery, already reduced by 947 privates, is to be further reduced by 500 artillerymen; the marines, from 15,900 to 11,000; and the seamen, from 29,300 to 26,000. It will thus be seen that France reduces officers as well as men—a course which our Ministers dare not take. Another sign of altered feeling across the Channel is, the strenuous effort already made, and still making, by the President and his advisers, to deter Sardinia from renewing the conflict with Austria, and thus to avoid all pretext for French interference. Public opinion in France is becoming decidedly healthy: a notable fact, seeing that it is scarcely more than a twelvemonth since it groaned under the corrupting and debasing yoke of Louis Philippe.

With the exception of the death of the King of Holland—a sovereign who, by timely concession, saved his throne in the revolutionary hurricane of last year—the notice given by both parties of the termination of the armistice between Sardinia and Austria—the promulgation of a new constitution for his late Sicilian subjects by the King of Naples—the abolition of the Inquisition by Republican Rome (why does not the *Times* fall foul of the "anarchists" for this act?)—the change of opinion at Frankfurt in favour of a Prussian Emperor—and the unquestioned defeat of the Austrians in Hungary—the foreign intelligence of the week, for the most part, takes the form of unauthenticated rumour. Thus we are told that Russian intrigue and Russian armies are visible everywhere in Eastern Europe, in the Baltic, on the Prussian frontier, in the Danubian provinces, and at Constantinople itself, and that the great leviathan of



the North is almost ready to descend with his Cossacks, like a deluge, upon the plains of Germany. It is further said that Frederick William has actually been elected to the Imperial dignity at Frankfurt, by an immense majority, and that he is fixedly resolved not to embroil himself with his elder brother of Austria, by grasping the tempting but dangerous prize. We hear, too, rumours of a projected matrimonial alliance between Austria and Russia—not very probable, seeing that the former has all to lose by such a policy—of an intended immediate renewal of the insensate war in Schleswig-Holstein (too true, alas! we fear)—and of the unqualified refusal by Sicily of the terms of reconciliation offered for her acceptance by a Bourbon tyrant, whose perjury is matter of European notoriety. All which things—facts and rumours combined—indicate a not very exhilarating prospect of a speedy subsidence of agitation in Europe; but lead us, notwithstanding, to hope that the principle of self-government, in spite of the intrigues of the remaining dynasties still able to call kingdoms their patrimony and free-born men their vassals, is making steady progress amongst the nations of Europe.

THE NATIONAL RATE MOVEMENT.

A CLOUD, no bigger than a man's hand, which in the political latitude of the British Isles always precedes a general agitation, and warns all parties that, before the lapse of many years, the firmament will be overspread with gloom, and that something unsound in our government is destined to be swept away before a deluge of public opinion, hovers over Leicester and Norwich, and rapidly extends itself, so much so, as to attract the attention of the thoughtful, and excite their hopes or fears as to "whereunto it will grow." We refer, as the heading of this article will already have informed the reader, to the national rate movement. The object of this incipient agitation may be soon described—its ultimate bearing upon the social condition of the people is, perhaps, second in importance to none which now appeal for a verdict to the common-sense of Englishmen. It touches a vital question, and it does so with a bold and determined hand—whether for good or evil we proceed to inquire.

The change now sought in the laws affecting the maintenance of the poor is, in one word, the abolition of the parochial system, with reference to both the area of assessment, and the claim of the pauper to relief. At present, every parish is rated for the support of its own poor only, and the law undertakes to decide what persons they are who have a right to its assistance. The reform demanded by the national rate movement, is to the effect, that all realized property in the kingdom shall be assessed at the same ratio, and that the pauper needing relief, shall be entitled to enjoy it on any spot on which he may be located. With a view to the first object, the substitution of a county or a national rate for a parochial one is proposed; and to effect the second, it is deemed necessary to repeal the existing laws of settlement.

The movement certainly has the advantage of a great, and striking, and manifold, grievance wherewith to stimulate reforming energies. The evils of the present system are terrible, and unless remedied by an alteration of law, will, in a few years, become intolerable. The tendency of it is to drive our increasing population into compact masses, and to pen all pauperism within narrow limits, as we have seen sheep penned in a field of turnips. The owners of large territorial estates, or the few head proprietors of land, in rural parishes, possess the power of effectually weeding the area for which they are rated of pauper inhabitants. They monopolize the soil—they can prevent building—and the hovels which serve a large portion of our destitute peasantry for a lair, and which an ill-judged courtesy calls cottages, they can level with the dust—and they have a pecuniary interest in doing this. Hence our towns are swollen to an unnatural size—manufacturing wages are depreciated by a fierce competition artificially aggravated—the energies of trade are depressed by enormous local burdens—and disease, and squalor, and vice, are gendered and fostered, by practically rendering the country uninhabitable, so far as our surplus paupers are concerned, save in a few spots already overcrowded. Under the operation of this system the physical, social, and moral character of our working classes is fast deteriorating.

It is almost unnecessary to point out how unequally the burden of maintaining the poor must press upon different localities, as the result of the present laws. We could mention cities and towns, round which a broad belt of some four or five miles is being cleared of pauperism by the destruction of labourers' dwellings, and the very men who till the soil are driven to herd in places already over-peopled, and several miles from the scene of their daily work. What is the consequence? The estates of large landowners throw off a larger and larger share every year of parochial taxation; and our seats of industry, the manufacturing towns, are compelled to bear what the squires and gentry thus manage to get rid of. What wonder is it that

some parishes are paying for the support of the poor as much as eight shillings in the pound, and others, contiguous ones, contribute scarcely two-pence in the pound—nay! in some cases, nothing at all. Equalized over the whole country by a national instead of a parochial rate, the cost of pauperism to this kingdom would be, from about one shilling to fifteen-pence in the pound on the annual value of real property—an immense relief to many of our crowded districts.

The existing laws of settlement greatly enhance both to rate-payers, and to the poor, the mischievous working of the system now in force. A man, unable to earn subsistence in his own parish, goes in search of work—finds employment in some distant town—removes his family thither—labours hard something short of five years—falls sick, or is turned adrift by the bankruptcy of his master—and sees before him the alternative of parish-maintenance or starvation. He has not resided long enough where he is to acquire a settlement in the parish, that is, a title to relief from it—and can only be supported by the parish to which he belongs. But doubts arise in the minds of officers as to which that parish is—and so they go to law to determine the question. Supposing this to have been decided, the poor labourer with his family, suffering now only from temporary pressure, and striving to bear up for better times, must pine in indescribable penury, or beg or borrow for a season, or be removed from his home, and the place of his industry's hope, to the parish to which he belongs—to begin life afresh when he returns, if, indeed, he is ever able to return. 'Tis a most heartrending, and yet, alas! an every-day occurrence. Why should not the man be entitled to relief where he lives for the time-being? Why break up his home, and exile him to his native village, hundreds of miles, it may be, distant, as the condition of extending to him temporary assistance? The laws of settlement do more than any other cause to impede the free circulation of labour, and till they are abolished, the poor man's industry will not be free. The mark of serfdom is still upon him. And, of course, the expenses of the litigation thus originated, and the removals thus effected, augment the burden imposed upon the rate-payers.

In the twofold principle sought to be embodied in legislation by the promoters of the national rate movement—an equal assessment to the maintenance of the poor on the annual value of all real property in the kingdom, and an abolition of the laws of settlement—we entirely concur. It would be puerile, however, to shut our eyes to the fact, that in the construction of machinery adapted to give effect to this principle, great difficulties will have to be encountered, and some dangers to be incurred. The system of local management insures a higher kind of benefit than that of mere economy—and every substitution for it of national taxation is a step to centralized power, creates large establishments and correspondent patronage, and removes the most efficient check upon a wasteful expenditure. These are serious evils—not suggested by an active fancy, but by uniform experience—evils, moreover, which perhaps it is impossible wholly to avoid. They are such as will compel many enlightened and patriotic men to pause before they assent to the changes proposed. We would suggest, therefore, the propriety of laying before the public eye, a definite and feasible plan—heads of a bill—for giving practical effect to the end contemplated. It may be, that ingenuity, fairly set to work, might devise machinery whereby the perils anticipated may, for the most part, be warded off, and an equal assessment be secured without destroying inducements to local vigilance and control. A good round sum of money would be well spent in tempting invention to busy itself on this subject. The experiment is worth the trial. And, with a well-matured scheme in their hands, the leaders of the movement may go forward with their task, armed with an incalculable increase of moral force, and confident of ultimate, and not distant, success.

OUR VILLAGE POPULATION.

WHENCE is it that the labouring classes in our villages remain in such a state of thick darkness? Truths which illuminate and gladden other regions, scarcely penetrate these sequestered spots. The fallow-ground is hardly broken up in the way of raising the intellectual tone of these living but scattered myriads. Notwithstanding what has been accomplished by the agency of day and Sunday-schools, and the preaching of the Gospel, the vast majority of agricultural labourers remain in a condition of deplorable wretchedness.

But need this be the case? Can there be no rescue from this hard bondage? May not means at least be adopted of a simple and unpretending character, calculated to awaken the mental energies and elevate the taste of this slumbering portion of the people? Remote as they are from the great centres of national light and progress, and hence the last localities to be possessed, is not the time arrived when we should march into this neglected territory with the joyful cry of "The good time

is coming?" Shall they for ever remain the "Backwoods" and the "Far Wests" of our native country? The strange changes which the spirit of free-trade is breeding in the minds of this overlooked population demand the immediate application of such methods as shall give a right education and impulse to their minds. Get at them we must, "by hook or by crook," if our purpose be to fit them for the significant times through which we are moving.

But how is this to be accomplished? May not a good beginning at least be made? Of course we eschew the pedagogue of the State, who crams the mind with certain notions—stiffens it into fixed forms, and conforms it to "a cut and dried" standard. This may be teaching in some sense, but it is not education in any sense, much less the highest. Neither are we remarkably solicitous that the Squire's school should abound, with all the mysterious, fussy, ostentatious, yet potent influence connected therewith, to make each of the children who attend but "a chip of the old block." Neither do we think that the pulpit labours in these localities are in the general doing much for the up-grown population. Somehow or other the members of village churches are not the brightest specimens of a manly intelligence, correct taste, or enlarged heart. Yet if progress is to be made, we must make a change for the better. The neglected hearts of the working men and women of our agricultural districts must be gained, trained, and inspired by sentiments worthy of the age in which we live.

But all sorts of objections and difficulties here cross our path, such as we cannot stay to specify. Let us not be alarmed. These ghosts have walked this road time out of mind. Go but boldly up to them, and, like all their fraternal, they vanish. The darkest spots have become illuminated by fit and earnest means. The avenues to the human heart are the same all the world over. The outer crust once broken off from the most unpromising minds, there will be found beneath a rich and fertile soil, such as will amply repay loving culture. Let men see that we care for them, sympathize with them, in all their personal, social, and political wrongs, and it matters not how far gone they are in ignorance and depravity, we may gain their attention, their sympathy, their gratitude. He who thus far succeeds takes the first and right step to their true education.

Have village pastors well considered this subject? Some have, we know, to their own honour, and the advantage of the neighbourhood in which they reside. They have not thought the introduction of cheap village Reading Societies, lectures upon the rudiments of Natural Philosophy, Literature, and the popular topics of the age, by any means calculated to quench the fire of revealed truth. The very attempt to do these things for the benighted population around them, will help them out of old official ruts. They must dare to brave the advice of some of their worthy, but ignorant friends. They must break up the middle-class prejudice which is but too fondly nursed by their wealthy hearers. If they cannot snap their fingers at village snobism, they are not likely to get hold of the population around them. Loving man as man, and truly anxious to convince him, in the midst of all his privations, that

"The rank is but the guinea stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that;"

the shell of a mere official and sectarian spirit will be broken. When this population see the rural pastor among them as the man, and as such love him, they will then begin to respect the pastor, but not before. In our day, this is frequently reversed; and hence the gulf which separates the two parties. When working men, even in the much-abused agricultural districts, behold an earnest, unsectarian, generous effort made to sympathize with their wrongs, improve their habits, change their tastes, and elevate their nature, they will speedily make a glad surrender of their affections. Oh, what noble, living, glorious thoughts may be thus sown broad-cast in their souls! Identify them not with the puling and sickly, but with the noble, ideas of the age, and you lay the basis for an education as lasting as it will be successful.

But the price of all this? Verily, there is one to be paid. Whoever did a real good without a self-sacrifice? Whoever sought seriously the good of the millions without running his head against the prejudices of the few? Offence may possibly be given to the grasping landlord—the officious squire—the miscalled respectable people, who are for "things as they are"—the ignorant church officer, who never steps out of the old cow-pad—that well-known tribe, who are for ever railing against poverty and the working classes—to say nothing of a pseudo-pious squeamishness, which will lift up its hands in pious horror. But who would not gladly encounter all these for the goodwill of a whole village? Who is not the gainer, that parts with a few selfish for the many loving hearts?

These thoughts are not the result of mere theory, but are based upon well-authenticated

facts. We can point to men who have felt, and tasted, and handled of the thing for themselves. Not a doubt need be cherished as to the nature of final results. He who dares, discreetly and lovingly, to pursue this "excellent way," will at least discover one easy means by which the darkness of village population may be rolled away, and village depravity be stayed in its course.

REPRESENTATION OF LAMBETH.—On Monday evening, a numerously attended meeting of the ratepayers and electors of the parish was held in the Vestry-hall, Church-street, Lambeth, for the purpose of taking into consideration the conduct of the Right Hon. C. T. D'Eyncourt, M.P. for the borough, for absenting himself from his duties in the House of Commons on the 26th February last, and not voting in favour of Mr. Cobden's resolutions demanding a reduction of the public expenditure, deeply affecting the parish. Mr. John Hunt, one of the churchwardens of the parish, in the chair. A letter was read from Mr. D'Eyncourt disputing the pretensions of 104 of the inhabitants to represent the whole constituency:—

I have merely declined to pledge myself to a financial proposal, brought forward by a private member of Parliament, because I deemed it impolitic and undesirable, although I abstained from voting against it, lest I might appear adverse to economy and retrenchment. Some other faithful representatives of the people took the same course, yet for this I have been summarily called to account by those who sent you the requisition for a vestry meeting. I have, at all times, shown myself ready and anxious to explain any part of my public conduct, and if I had in any ordinary way been desired to do so at this or any other meeting, whether electoral or parochial, I should have cheerfully complied. But the time and manner in which I have now been publicly arraigned, compel me to say, if the matter be grave enough for so rigorous a course, I object to the tribunal which proposes to decide upon it; and I must add that, if members of Parliament were, upon occasions such as that which has now arisen, to respond to citations of this harsh character, such a practice would paralyse that free and constitutional exercise of their judgment on public questions which, for the sake of their constituents and the people at large, they are bound to maintain.

Mr. Boulton proposed the following resolution:—

That it is the opinion of this meeting that the frequent absence of the Right Hon. C. T. D'Eyncourt from his duty in Parliament, and especially on the 26th Feb. last, and not voting for Mr. Cobden's resolutions for a reduction of public expenditure, deeply affecting this great parish, is highly injurious to its interests; and that it would be to the credit of the right hon. gentleman to retire from its representation.

Mr. Edwards seconded the resolution, which was then carried unanimously; a committee was appointed to draw up a petition to Parliament, praying for reductions in the public expenditure, and the meeting separated.

ENGLISH HOMŒOPATHIC ASSOCIATION.—Last Thursday evening Dr. Epps delivered, at Exeter-hall, the third lecture of the course on Homœopathy to an audience considerably increased in numbers; Allan Templeton, Esq., in the chair. In this lecture, the lecturer claimed for Homœopathy a scientific character. He stated that the Creator, as a God of order, had traced his character on the pages of creation; that man, attracted by the regularity of the phenomena, was led to seek a cause for such regularity; and that, by a careful linking of the phenomenon consequent with the phenomenon antecedent, was led to the recognition of a connexion so fixed between these phenomena, as to be constrained to use some term as expressive of such connexion; and the term he has used, and still uses, to express this fixed connexion is "law." The laws referring to any one great department of the physical creation, when collected and grouped together, constitute what is called a science; in other words, a science or knowing what the Creator has done. Science, being nothing more or less than the will of the Creator, presented of necessity certainty in results, simplicity in application, power in effects, and fitness to explain the phenomena in nature in relation to the science itself. These four characteristics of a science, Dr. Epps entered into, and showed from the writings of the old-system practitioners that no certainty is to be found in connexion with their system. He showed that the absence of simplicity in the application of the means used in the old system, is a characteristic of the prescriptions; he exhibited clearly the impossibility of judging, under the old-system practice, of the powers of any medicine, since such multitudes are administered together. He showed that the power in the results of the old-system practice is a power to the destruction of the constitution, and not to the removal of the disease; he showed that the old system could not explain the facts presented in the phenomena of disease and of cure. He then contrasted Homœopathy with the old system: he argued that as it had a law, "*Similia similibus curantur*," for its basis, it had certainty; that as it used only one medicine at a time, it had simplicity; that its power of curing disease, exhibited in success in hundreds of cases where the old system had failed, justified it in being scientific; and, finally, that Homœopathy could fitly explain all the phenomena connected with disease and cure. On all these grounds the lecturer made a most firm stand; and the conviction of the audience that he had established the scientific character of Homœopathy was exhibited in the hearty plaudits with which they met the concluding assertion of this proposition by the lecturer. Thanks were voted to the Chairman, who announced that the lecture next Thursday evening would be on the Infinitesimal Quantities, and the action of the Homœopathic remedies in these quantities.

A FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY has been established in Cheltenham. Its object is to enable its members, by small weekly contributions, to become the proprietors of pieces of freehold land, whereby they may secure for themselves the right of voting in the election of members of Parliament.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

"THE PECULIAR BURDENS" OF THE LANDED INTEREST.

In our last number we inserted part of an article from the *Economist*, showing, to some extent, the amount of taxation which falls upon the landed interest. This analysis has been so ably and thoroughly performed by the *Examiner* of Saturday, that we are sure the whole article, although somewhat long, will prove acceptable to our readers.

"Mr. Disraeli has fired off his rocket, and the artificial meteor has fizzed, burst, sparkled, and vanished, as usual with such things, without benefit or hurt to himself or any one else. The little band of Protectionists admired 'with a foolish face of praise.' The majority of the House was cold and unbelieving. Perhaps Mr. Disraeli might have said, like Mr. Canning, when First Lord of the Treasury, after an uncheered speech on finance,—'That House has a fine ear: it knew very well that I knew nothing at all about the matter.' The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a powerful and crushing speech in reply. The only part we disagree with, is that in which he agrees with Mr. Disraeli as to the amount of the local burdens, the items of which he had probably not analyzed.

"Mr. Disraeli would have his agricultural friends to understand, that the measure he proposes is one for the relief of the landed interest—that is, the relief of landlords, tenants, and farmers. He makes out a sum of £12,000,000 of local taxation, the larger part of which is neither local, nor has any connexion on earth with the agricultural interest. But the sum itself is a frightful exaggeration. Two millions of it are a land-tax fixed in perpetuity, fifty years ago, on an assessment a hundred and fifty years old, when the rent of land was less than one-fourth of what it is now. Every man who inherited or bought land, bought or inherited it subject to this burden. £800,000 of it have been commuted; or the tax, in a word, extinguished. The seller had the benefit of the perpetual settlement and commutation; and the purchaser, when he made his investment, paid more or less, as the tax was redeemed or unredeemed. All of it is fixed in perpetuity. To go to the state now for relief from this tax is, therefore, simply to re-open the question, and to require to be paid over again. The landlords might just as well require that the rest of the community should relieve their estates of the mortgages of their great grandfathers.

"Of the remaining £10,000,000, not less than three millions are made up of such various and heterogeneous items as the following:—the revenue of municipal corporations, the revenue of the City of London, turnpike-tolls, highway-rates, light dues, and Church-rates. The revenue of boroughs or municipal corporations includes not only rates, or taxes on rent, but the rent of estates in land, houses, market-tolls, wharfage, river-dues, ferries, and similar revenues, &c., which come no more under the head of local taxation than the rural rents of lords and squires, or the dividends on consols.

"Light dues' are simply a payment for beacons to guide ships at sea; and how they are to be considered as a tax on the land, when their whole bearing is on the water, we cannot comprehend. But, in fact, they are no tax at all, any more than the payment of 6d. for a four-pound loaf is, since the abolition of the corn-laws, wholly or in part a tax on bread.

"As to the turnpike-roads, every man that uses them, whether an inhabitant of the town or the country, whether foreigner or native, pays for them, and receives value in return. After enumerating turnpike-tolls, which in 1843 amounted to £1,660,000 as a local tax, we may fairly expect to see railway-fares and canal-dues brought under the same category.

"Of the remaining three millions, one item is entitled to especial notice—'highway-rates.' These are levied and paid by the rural population, for the making and repair of parish roads, without which the operations of husbandry could no more be carried on than without farm-buildings or agricultural implements. They are wholly under the management of the parishes. The roads are almost exclusively used by the rustic population; or if occasionally by the inhabitants of towns, the benefit is more than returned by the paving, lighting, and watering, of the market-towns, &c., in which the farmer finds a market for his produce. One might just as well call 'house-rent' a local tax as these highway-rates. In 1843 they amounted to £1,170,000, and must be struck off the local taxation on real property; leaving the latter barely one-half of the amount trumped up by Mr. Disraeli!

"Church-rates are nearly of the same character, in so far as they are levied on those who make use of churches, and are no more a tax than pew-rents, or house-rents, or the price of an opera-box. They are levied in town as well as country, and the largest portion necessarily in the former, because there the churches are largest and most numerous. The serious charge against them, and to which in reason there is no defence, is one which it did not suit Mr. Disraeli's purpose to mention, that they are levied on many who make no use of the churches, but who have at the same time to support their own temples.

"Every one of the remaining local taxes are taxes which real property has borne for two centuries and a half. All who inherited land, inherited it subject, in practice at least, to this condition; and all who invested money in the purchase of land, paid for it minus the amount of those charges on it. To place any portion of such charges, therefore, on the rest of the community, would be simply to plunder the whole community to the extent of the impost, for

the benefit of the owners of real property. It is said that the act of Elizabeth allows of such burdens being assessed on stock; but the reply is, that such has not been the almost immemorial practice, and that in the few places in which the attempt has been made, the experiment has proved impracticable or disastrous.

"As an example of these taxes, we shall take the various local imposts levied under the head of 'poor-rates.' In 1826 they amounted on agricultural land to 69 per cent. of the whole, and now they amount to little more than 47 per cent. On all other kinds of property, the proportion had advanced from 31 per cent. to about 52 per cent. This of course arose from the rapid increase of all real property that was not rural, and the slow advance of all that was rural. No part of the able speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was more complete and satisfactory in its refutation than his exposition of this part of the subject.

"Mr. Disraeli's remedy for what he calls the over-taxation of real property is, that the whole community should pay one-half of the whole of that burden—which, according to his estimate, is £6,000,000—the money to be handed over to parish boards for disbursement; and, naturally, for jobbing.

"The amount could, of course, only be raised by an income-tax; and as the present produce of that impost, at nearly three per cent., little exceeds £5,000,000, it is quite certain that an additional income-tax of not less than three per cent. would be necessary to fulfil the purposes of Mr. Disraeli's project. The hon. member for Bucks estimated the real property assessed to local rates at £67,000,000, but Sir Charles Wood showed him that the actual amount was £105,000,000; a small mistake in the inchoate financier of only £38,000,000.

"Of the actual value of all the real property assessed to the income-tax, which is £84,000,000, only £40,000,000 consist of agricultural land, the rest consisting of canals, railways, mines, &c. Of the £6,000,000, then, only £2,800,000, in round numbers, would go to the agriculturists, while near £3,200,000 would go to the owners of houses, canals, and railways, &c., who neither want it, nor have asked for it. But to whom would the above goodly sum of £2,800,000 go? Every farthing of it would go, in the long run, into the pockets of the owners of land; and for this plain and incontrovertible reason—that every one of these taxes is truly a tax on rent, that is, on the property of the owners of the land. The land-tax is even nominally a landlord's tax, and the tenant never pays it. The highway-rate, the church-rate, the poor-rates, are paid immediately by the farmer; but the farmer, before he takes his tenement, invariably deducts the amount of them from the rent, and so they are no less a tax on rent than the land-tax, which the landlord pays directly. Mr. Disraeli's project is, then, neither more nor less than a scheme which would put a handsome sum into the pockets of landlords.

"The tenant-farmer absolutely gains nothing whatever by Mr. Disraeli's motion; and as to the farm-labourer, he does not even allude to him. The landed interest of Mr. Disraeli, in short, means a small minority, computed at 200,000, of the families engaged in agriculture.

"The matter is a little worse than this. The tenants not only gain nothing, but the higher class of them lose a good deal by Mr. Disraeli's scheme for agricultural relief. A tenant must contribute his share of the new income-tax, if he pays rent to the amount of £300. Not one of the farmers, for example, that met at Willis's-rooms, would fail to be subjected to the impost. Let it be supposed that one of them—and we have no doubt there were several—pays a rent of £1,000 a year, then, such tenant will have to pay £30 in addition to his present income-tax. A yeoman of £300 a year, farming his own land, would have to pay the tax twice over, once as landlord and once as tenant. In no case would the tenant benefit, except during the currency of his lease; but as the great majority of the tenantry of England are tenants only for a year, to quit on a six months' notice, the numbers that would profit, even in this ephemeral way, would be but small. No wonder the farmers who met at Willis's-rooms, at Eli, and other places, should be suspicious of Mr. Disraeli. The innocents were brought like lambs to the altar, to be made a sacrifice to the clumsy scheme of putting £2,800,000 into the pockets of their landlords—a process which the Protectionist financier would not accomplish without taking £3,200,000 more out of the pockets of the people, to be given away to those who were never so unreasonable as even to ask for it. Yet Mr. Disraeli coolly tells the farmers that his scheme will be a 'hundred times' more advantageous to them than the abolition of the malt-tax, which he also considers would be beneficial to them.

"Before parting with Mr. Disraeli, let us briefly glance at the actual condition of his oppressed landed interest. The rent of the English landlords from mere agricultural land, exclusive of mines and quarries, is £40,000,000 a year. In no country of the world, of the same population and area, is the rental so great. Within the last seventy years that rental has been quadrupled, through the spirit, enterprise, and ingenuity of that class of our people which the discreet advocate of the landed interest would amerce for the charges of the pocket establishment, of the blockade of the river Plate, and of the Chinese war.

"The value of agricultural land in England is equal to thirty years' purchase, and in no country of the known world is it so high. No sooner are fortunes made, by trade or manufacture, in the Colonies or the Indies, than a large portion of them is forthwith invested in land as the pleasantest, safest, and most

distinguished investment. It cannot well be an oppressed interest that has such attraction.

"The land of England, of every description, contributes to the public revenue £2,000,000, including what is commuted, and is never to be increased. The land of France, our nearest and most civilized neighbour, but far from being so rich as ourselves, contributes at the present moment £9,200,000, or 360 per cent. more, and this, too, not on a perpetual settlement, but on the principle that the impost is to increase with the increase of rent. Can it be an oppressed landed interest, which is so favoured beyond its neighbour?"

"The landed interest of England possesses now, and has possessed at least since the Norman Conquest, more political power than any other landed interest that the world has ever known. Sometimes it has exercised this great power for the benefit of the people, as when it obtained Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights; and sometimes it has exercised it foully, as when, in apprehension of losing its own privileges, it involved the nation, within living memory, in a foreign war, which entailed on posterity annual taxes to the amount of some £20,000,000. Or as when, for its own special benefit, it made a law to double the price of bread to the entire nation. Its present power is not exactly what it has been, but for good or evil it is quite enough, and, at all events, sufficient to move it from the category of distressed interests."

"A contemporary charges the opponents of Mr. Disraeli with making random attacks on him, but Mr. Disraeli's speech is a random speech, and this mode of retaliation was, therefore, unavoidable. His speech is for agricultural relief; and he relieves only one, and that the smallest, of the three classes which compose that interest. With one hand he proposes to relieve the towns of burdens to the extent of £3,200,000, while with the other he would assess them locally,—for the packet service, the blockade of the Plate, and the Chinese war. He is for doubling the income-tax, so as to shift a burden of £6,000,000 from one set of shoulders to another set, and this he coolly calls a measure of justice. In fact, he is like Falstaff's hostess, 'no man knows where to have him'; and we are obliged to parry his Parthian thrusts the most convenient way we can."

LONDON PHONETIC SOCIETY.—On Wednesday evening, March 14th, a number of friends of the Phonetic Reform met at the Phonographic Institution, 111, Strand, for the purpose of considering the desirability of forming a society, having for its object a more extensive diffusion of the principles of phonetic truth in London and its neighbourhood. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Dornbusch. The feeling of the meeting was decidedly in favour of the proposition which had brought them together; and it was unanimously agreed to, that those present should form themselves into a society, to be called the "London Phonetic Society," the subscription to which should be not less than 1s. per annum. Dr. Black and Mr. T. A. Reed were unanimously requested to accept the offices of President and Vice-President, and Mr. Samuel Pitman that of Treasurer. A committee, consisting of ladies and gentlemen, was also appointed. We trust this effort to unite the various friends of phonetic truth in the metropolis into one body, will be the means of exciting much attention to the arts of Phonography and Phonotypy. To our knowledge, there are some earnest advocates of the new system on this committee; and we shall be much disappointed if they do not shortly bring the subject before the public in such a manner as to command the attention of large numbers.

THE MANAGEMENT CLAUSES, AND THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.—At a recent meeting of the committee of the National Society a resolution, proposed by the Bishop of Oxford, to the effect that, where two-thirds of the subscribers to a school concurred in desiring it, the management clauses might be dispensed with altogether, was negatived by a trifling majority. A sub-committee was afterwards appointed, consisting of the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harrowby, and Archdeacon Sinclair, to draw up a letter to the Committee of Council, which formed the subject of debate at a second meeting, when a paragraph to the effect that, in the present unsatisfactory state of the clauses, the committee could not make itself responsible for recommending any of them for adoption, was ordered to stand as part of the letter.

INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF CHLOROFORM.—More than one correspondent has obliged us with the particulars of a case, in which alarming effects have resulted from the application of this powerful anæsthetic. The case is that of Miss Carpenter, of Harleston, who, on the refusal of a medical man to extract a troublesome tooth for her under the influence of chloroform (from an apprehension of its effects on her constitution), applied to a veterinary surgeon, who, after considerable hesitation, eventually complied with her request. The operation, successfully performed, was followed at first by faintness and languor, and afterwards by stupor, in which state she has remained for five weeks. During the first three weeks she received no nourishment, except what was forced between her teeth. Mustard plasters and blisters were tried a fortnight since, but they caused hysterics. She has spoken a few times, but the tongue is so injuriously affected, that it will be a long time before she perfectly recovers the faculty of speech. She has the best medical attendance, and is slowly recovering, though not out of danger.—*Norfolk News.*

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—Mr. Waddington was appointed by the Board, at their meeting on Thursday last, chairman of this company, in the room of Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Samuel Anderson the deputy-chairman, in lieu of Mr. Waddington.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

CLERGY RELIEF BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. LACY moved that it be read a second time that day six months, observing that its provisions offered a great temptation to insincerity, inasmuch as clergymen having worldly objects in view, rather than religious scruples, might make the declaration provided by the bill that they dissented from the Church. The bill was imperfect, also, in not providing against re-ordination.

Mr. STAFFORD seconded the amendment, stating that if the bill passed, any clergyman who had violated ecclesiastical discipline might rid himself of the consequences.

Mr. BOUVERIE replied to the hon. member for Bodmin, that the existing law was a much stronger incentive to insincerity than the present bill, because it prevented any one in holy orders from joining the Dissenters under pain of fine and imprisonment.

Mr. HUME thought the existing law a relic of barbarous oppression.

Mr. SPOONER urged that there were many clergymen who had seceded from the Church and now formed part of the Dissenting body of ministers, of whom no notice had been taken; but there were others who were now suffering from having disobeyed the orders of a bishop who supposed himself bound to enforce the law with rigour. The objections urged to the bill might be removed in committee.

Mr. WAWN pointed out that a clergyman of the Church of England might join the Roman Catholic Church without being proceeded against.

Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND wished to know whether it would be possible to manage the army and navy if the Mutiny Act were to be repealed? ["hear," and laughter.] It was the principle of an Established Church that ecclesiastical authority should employ the secular sword to enforce ecclesiastical discipline. He did not think that it was right, but as long as the law continued in its present state, no bishop would do his duty who did not enforce it. The hon. member who thought it extraordinary that a clergyman of the Establishment could become a Roman Catholic priest, but not a Protestant Dissenting minister, did not understand the reason of the distinction, which was this—that in the one case the man would remain in holy orders, in the other he would not ["Oh," and laughter]. A man in holy orders had an indelible character, which no Act of Parliament could take away, and they were by this bill separating the Church from the State [hear, hear]. He did not say it was wrong; but let them know what they were about, and do it with their eyes open. Of this he was convinced, that by separation the Church was altogether the gainer, and not the State; and that the State alone, in the present state of things, was the gainer. If the bishops and clergy of the Church would do their duty, and knew their duty, it was impossible for them to continue the Church without shaking off—he was going to say the incubus of that House, and the whole State too [hear, hear].

Sir G. GREY expressed his intention, as the bill was calculated to redress a great practical evil, to give it his support; but thought it would be a serious question for consideration whether a proviso should not be introduced in committee, prohibiting persons making the declaration from sitting in Parliament, in order to diminish the motives for making it.

Mr. KERSHAW thought, when clergymen of the Church of England could become Roman Catholics, without restraint or hindrance, it would be cause for lament if the House refused its assent to this bill.

Mr. HENLEY asked the Attorney-General what the law was as to a clergyman of the Established Church joining the Roman Catholic Church, because, if he could do so free from penalty and hindrance, he thought both sides ought to be placed on the same footing.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL must decline giving an answer to a difficult question without further consideration.

Mr. NEWDEGATE put a further question to the same authority, whether it was or was not competent to a clergyman, whose opinions did not coincide with those of the Church, to leave it, free from all penalties.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied decisively that it was not.

Mr. BRIGHT agreed in the views entertained by the mover of the amendment, but suggested its withdrawal, in order that the House might not be forced into a decision hostile to his intentions. The hon. gentleman was mistaken if he supposed the clauses of a bill always agreed with the title.

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

AGRICULTURAL BURDENS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Disraeli's motion on "local taxation" was then resumed by

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, spoke for about two hours. In stating the course which the Government recommended the House to adopt with reference to the two propositions before it, he dealt first with the amendment of Mr. Hume, which was connected with the proposition for reducing tenths of the expenditure necessary for the defence of the country, and which proposition had been fairly discussed on the motion of Mr. Cobden a fortnight ago; and he called upon the House to negative Mr. Hume's amendment, and to affirm its recent decision. With respect to the other proposition, he agreed in much that had fallen from Mr.

Disraeli. He joined him in the tribute he has paid to the gentry and farmers of the country; he agreed with him that the local taxation to which he had referred was a burden more especially pressing upon real property, and that the amount of that taxation came near £12,000,000. But here his acquiescence ended. Mr. Disraeli had calculated that this local taxation pressed upon one-fourth only of the property of the country, having taken the income derived from real property at £67,000,000, and the aggregate income of the country at £249,000,000. But he would find that the annual income of property rateable to the poor was not £67,000,000, but £105,000,000; so that the burden fell not upon one-fourth, but upon two-fifths, of the annual income of the country. Then the effect of the change proposed by Mr. Disraeli would not make a fair and equal distribution of benefit. Of the property subject to the exclusive burden of local taxation, not one-half consisted of land, the rest being railways and other descriptions of rateable property; so that he would throw a heavy burden upon one class to confer a boon upon another that did not ask it. Mr. Disraeli had sometimes spoken of this burden as pressing upon the occupiers of land; but they had no interest, or next to none, in his proposition, the rates being always calculated by a tenant before he took a farm, and deducted from its value. There was another point he had lost sight of—namely, the diminishing proportion of the expense of maintaining the poor, paid by landed property, as distinguished from other property. Sir Charles showed by figured details that the poor-rate was diminished in its proportion upon land, and increasing upon other property. He then touched upon the items of local taxation, and, with reference to Mr. Disraeli's complaint of the misery inflicted by manufactures upon agricultural counties, he proved that, even in the county he represented (Bucks), the introduction of manufactures had relieved the surplus population and diminished poor-rates. In dwelling upon the special burdens upon land, Mr. Disraeli had overlooked its special exemptions; and in asserting that nothing had been done for the landed and agricultural interest, had forgotten that since 1815 Excise duties affecting agriculture had been repealed to the amount of £6,835,000. The burdens of the landowners of this country had been described in pathetic terms by Mr. Disraeli; whereas there was scarcely a country in Europe in which a heavier portion of the national taxation did not fall upon land and real property. To the local taxation referred to by Mr. Disraeli must be added £2,000,000 for municipal taxation; this would make £14,000,000, half of which was to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund; and, assessing it in the proportion of the income-tax, £3,233,000 would fall upon the e in schedule A, and a heavy share upon the tenant farmers. Sir Charles Wood stated various reasons for pronouncing the scheme of Mr. Disraeli impracticable; but if otherwise, he thought that a large transfer of local taxation to the general taxation was dangerous; it tended to increase the public burdens, and to endanger the stability of our institutions by surrendering the wholesome principle of self-government. He concluded with some details adapted to abate the alarm respecting agricultural distress, which he did not believe to be so great or so prevailing as had been alleged. The right hon. baronet was immensely cheered on resuming his seat.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER supported the motion of Mr. Disraeli, contending that Sir Charles Wood had not dealt fairly with that proposition, which was offered as one of conciliation and policy.

Colonel THOMPSON called upon the Protectionist members to say, first of all, what they intended to give, by way of compensation, for the advantages they had reaped from their twenty years' monopoly under the corn-laws.

The Earl of MARCH said, they had been told that when the corn-laws were repealed, agricultural labourers would be as well off at low as at high prices; whereas he showed from public documents that the amount of pauperism and of poor-rates was greater when the price of wheat was low than when it was high.

It being now nearly six o'clock, Mr. M. Gimson moved the adjournment of the debate until the following day.

The debate was continued to a conclusion on Thursday, with a long array of speeches on both sides, and a proportionate development of arguments which are in the main familiar to the reader. Mr. Disraeli's motion was supported, on the ground of just relief to an overburdened class, by Mr. SEYMOUR, Sir RALPH LOPES, Sir MONTAGU CHOLMELEY, Mr. WILLIAM MILES, Mr. NEWDEGATE, Mr. CAYLEY, and the Marquis of GRANBY; opposed by Mr. MILNER GIBSON, Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, Lord NORREYS (as involving an increase of the Income-tax), Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, Mr. GOULBURN, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and Mr. CORDEN. It is useless to follow the level controversy as it waves from side to side in alternation of speakers; we notice the points that most stand out.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON supplied a useful view, by showing that as local rates are levied on the annual income arising from real property, a very small proportion of it falls on land used for agricultural purposes, in which the annual value is low as compared with the intrinsic value. Mr. Disraeli proposed to retain all the expensive local machinery to administer half the present fund; so that it would be as expensive to collect sixpence as it now is to collect a shilling. Mr. Gibson made light of the malt-tax as a grievance: it is not a good tax, but the arguments against it are not more stringent than in other cases; and he earnestly exhorted the agricul-

urists to abandon that will-o'-the-wisp, in order to join with the manufacturers in obtaining a reduction of expenditure. To that end, he should vote with Mr. Hume.

Mr. Lewis briefly examined the nature of local taxation. No doubt, the 43rd of Elizabeth meant the poor-rate to fall on the personality as well as real property; but practically it had been found impossible to levy local rates except on visible property within the parish. There is a great advantage in levying the rates upon persons who have an interest in economizing the expenditure of the rate, and who see to the actual disposal of the money. No one would suppose that the House could be induced to vote the half of £13,000,000 annually, without being minutely informed as to what would become of the money. Mr. Disraeli seemed to assume that the local rates are a fixed sum, not to be increased. [Mr. Disraeli exclaimed, "No, no!"] Then if they are to increase, that is a great argument against removing the check.

On the other hand, Mr. Miles read passages from Blackstone, to show that it is a principle of law that the provision for the poor should fall upon personal as well as real property.

Mr. Bright understood that the ground upon which Mr. Disraeli had rested his motion was, general agricultural distress. He did not deny that distress, which might be termed severe, existed in the southern counties; but the proof of great and prevalent general distress had failed, and this ground for making so great a change vanished. He showed that the removal of half the local taxation from real property would raise its value, whilst the capital of the tenant farmers would be taxed without any equivalent; and he suspected that Mr. Disraeli had miscalculated the credulity of the farmers, whom his proposition was not intended to benefit. On the other hand, Mr. Hume's plan would give relief to the farmers as well as other classes; it was more distinct than the other, which did not indicate the source whence the £6,000,000 was to be supplied. He cautioned the landed interest against the consequences of leading their tenants by false lights; taunted them with their inveterate hostility to Mr. Cobden; and warned them that, hereafter, they would be too glad to embrace the doctrines they now affected to despise.

Mr. Bright's speech was very able and telling, and was greeted with general cheering. We give an extract or two:—

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

He admitted that there was, in some counties in the South of England, a distress which, under the circumstances of agriculture in those counties, might be termed severe. As in all other trades, so in farming, there were vicissitudes; the rain fell just at the critical time for the farmers in the south, and therefore they had not so good a crop to bring to market as the farmers in the north. But the hon. member (Mr. Miles) said he had been selling corn of inferior quality lately, wheat that had sprouted, and he was able to get 42s. for it [hear]. There were gentlemen in the House who were manufacturers, and who knew that when they had to take a damaged article to market, the price obtained was not that average sum which any fair man would quote as describing the state of the trade [hear, hear]; and if the farmers in the south could get 42s. for inferior wheat, 48s. or 50s. might be considered at present the very lowest price for wheat of a fair quality. [Loud cries of "No, no," from the Opposition.] He (Mr. Bright) was told the other day, by a gentleman who was on his way from market, that Dantzic wheat was worth 53s. or 54s., and that he believed the average price of foreign wheat now in the port of London was about 48s. [hear, hear]. So far, then, as regarded any great and prevalent distress existing, the pretence upon which this motion was brought forward had failed [hear, hear].

THE FARMERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

The proposition of the hon. gentleman had caused the greatest dissatisfaction among the farmers [no, no]. The *Mark-lane Express*, a paper of great reputation in agricultural matters, with reference to the speech of the hon. member for Buckinghamshire, expressed its detestation of it as a piece of duplicity [hear, hear]. Now, he would not say anything of it half so bad as that; but the honourable gentleman must have grossly miscalculated the credulity and ignorance of the farmers, when he brought forward his plan as one that would satisfy them. The honourable gentleman's conduct reminded him of the story of a company of players who announced their intention to play in a barn for the poor of the parish. The barn was crowded; but at the close the players declared that they were the poor of the parish, and pocketed the whole of the receipts [a laugh]. That was exactly the case with the hon. member and his friends. He might go to Bond-street, or Willis's Rooms—and here he must observe that the language used at those places was not of the temperate character employed in that House; so that he might well retort upon gentlemen opposite what was lately said of the hon. member for the West Riding by the hon. member for Stamford;—but, whatever was said at Bond-street and Willis's Rooms, he was sure there was not a farmer in that house who, after hearing the speech of the hon. member (Mr. Disraeli), believed in his conscience that his proposition ever was intended to have the slightest effect to mitigate any of the evils complained of by farmers, to relieve their distress, or to remove from them the competition to which they were subjected [hear, hear]. When the question of free-trade was under discussion in that house, gentlemen opposite never rose without speaking about the malt-tax, because their intention, after carrying the object in which they were then engaged, was to contend for, not a partial relief to those who complained of temporary distress, but such a revision of the expenditure, as would benefit all the industrious classes of the country [hear, hear]. He did not now advocate the repeal of the malt-tax because it would make men happier by making beer cheaper, but because he thought it would enable them to expend more in the purchase of other articles,—because it was a tax injurious to agriculture, and because he was opposed to all excise duties and restrictions. Considering that the farmers had to so great an extent expressed their opposition to the hop duties and the

malt-tax, he was certainly surprised to find the hon. gentleman and his friends opposing their repeal. Not a word was now heard in that house from gentlemen opposite on the subject of the malt-tax.

"Their lips were now forbid to speak
The once familiar word"—

that they were formerly accustomed to use with all the strength of their lungs [laughter].

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT addressed himself to the task of making out that the agricultural distress is not caused by free-trade, but by transitory and extraneous causes. If wheat is now but 45s. a quarter, the average price during the last century was considerably less. At this time, however, the corn-market is seriously deranged: wheat in the North still sells for 45s., but in the South it is bad in quality and deficient in quantity; during the panic in France there were no purchasers of wheat, and she exported—she is now importing largely; in the mean time, the consumption in this country has been considerably checked. Mr. Herbert contended that the system of local taxation could not be disturbed without resorting to the representative principle in the management of county affairs.

Mr. CAYLEY threw out a new plan of taxation for the consideration of the House.

It might appear somewhat comprehensive when he stated that it was to abolish every tax levied by the Customs, Stamps, Excise, or Assessed-taxes; and yet without increasing the Income-tax—which he did not feel inclined to do, unless it were to carry it down to incomes as low as £50 a year. He would also retain the revenue from Crown lands, postage-duty, and land-tax; the latter as a set off against any apparent inequality in the Income-tax on precarious incomes. He would also throw half or three-fourths of the local taxation levied for national objects on the general taxation. How, then, make up a deficiency, after every reduction in expenditure; and for every practicable reduction he should vote? He proposed a system of inland revenue which should levy a tax on every article of produce, agricultural, manufacturing, or commercial, at a point nearest practicable to the consumer—that is, when the article is at its greatest value—of, say for the sake of argument, 10 per cent. The income of the country was estimated in an able pamphlet by Mr. Smee, founded on official documents, at £485,000,000, reckoning incomes above £150 per annum, between £150 and £50, and below £50. This, if all collected (which doubtless would be difficult), would give £48,000,000 a year; but say £40,000,000. What with an assiduous reduction of expenditure, and the remaining taxes he had mentioned, a sufficient taxation could, he believed, be levied. The tax would be levied on produce from wherever it came, if consumed in England, whether the corn came from Norfolk or from America. To the extent of 10 per cent., therefore, it would indirectly protect the farmer 10 per cent., while it would lower his taxation at least 20 per cent., being a direct relief to British agriculture of 30 per cent.—at least this was his rough estimate; while it would diminish the cost of production to the exporting manufacturer full 20 per cent.—for the 10 per cent. tax would not fall on him. He heard that a similar tax had existed in Holland for the last hundred years; and it had been introduced partially in this country, in the form of taxes on printed calico, cotton, and hats.

Mr. GOULBURN observed that Mr. Cayley, who held the Excise system in utter abhorrence, suggested a scheme of taxation which would render the presence of an excise-officer necessary not only in every village but in every house.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL spent some time in bantering Mr. Disraeli for his secrecy as to the plan by which he would make good the needful amount of taxation. He was almost induced to go into committee through mere curiosity. Mr. Miles repudiated an additional income-tax; Sir Montagu Cholmeley hinted at making good the deficiency by a moderate duty on corn; and Mr. Cayley volunteered an extempore plan of taxation for the nonce; Lord John explained what he meant when he said in 1846, that if the corn-laws were repealed, considerable relief ought to be given to the landed interests from the burdens to which they were subject. When Sir Robert Peel abrogated the corn-laws, he did propose a remission of the burdens which pressed upon real property, to the amount of £535,000 a year. Lord John might have proposed to put some different charges on the Exchequer, and he believed that the total amount which he should have proposed would have been £585,000.

Mr. COBDEN would not weary the House, after Sir Charles Wood's speech, by slaying the slain, in the way of replying to Mr. Disraeli; and he therefore turned his arguments to particular points. He contended that the relief would go, not to the farmers, but to the owners of land; and being met by signs of dissent, he defied any member to assert that if two farms were to be let, one with poor-rates of 2s. in the pound, and the other 8s., they would be let for the same rent. Mr. Disraeli's proposition, therefore, came before them under false pretences. In like manner, it was said that at the great meeting in Willis's Rooms none but tenant-farmers were to speak; now he knew that most of the persons who were called tenant-farmers were land-agents—for he had met them all. Mr. Cobden entered into minute statistics to show that the labouring part of the agricultural classes are better off in cheap years than they are in dear years, as the wages do not increase proportionately with the price of provisions; at the same time, the stockingers of Nottingham, who had been for nearly seventy years in a state of gradual extinction, have been placed by free-trade in a state of comparative comfort and happiness. On the other hand, while the price of the farmer's staple, wheat, has remained nearly what it was in 1790, and other produce in the nature of animal food has risen in price, the price of articles consumed by the farmer—his iron implements, clothing, cotton goods, tea, sugar, coffee, soap, fuel, candles, preserved fruits, in fact almost everything except beer—is cheaper than it was then, in some cases four or five times as

cheap; rent, however, is double what it was in 1790; in Scotland it is treble. He put in a word of advice to landlords—

Landlords exacted high rents, preserved game, and coerced votes. If they would keep up their high rents, let them give up their game, and cease to coerce votes [hear]. His advice to the landlords was, not to delude the farmers into the belief that a return to protection was possible. A return to a duty on corn was as impossible as the repeal of Magna Charta; nor need they dream of high prices again. Such prices were incompatible with the welfare and prosperity of the country. They could not better benefit the farmer than by voting for a reduction of expenditure—a course which would ultimately lead even to higher rents, for where taxes were low the rent of land was high [cheers].

Mr. COBDEN said that he should vote for Mr. Hume's amendment.

He supported the repeal of the malt-tax, because he was desirous to get rid of excise taxes as far as he could, but mainly because he wished to diminish the waste of the national expenditure upon cumbrous and unnecessary armaments. He was satisfied, from studying the proceedings of that House for thirty-five years past, that if they wanted to reduce expenditure they must get hold of a tax as a grievance; they must bring a pressure to bear upon the Government, and means would be found of effecting a reduction. In 1816 or 1817, when Lord Palmerston was Secretary at War, he passed his estimates, after a great battle for a reduction in the number of men to be voted; the present Premier having fought most manfully in favour of that reduction. A week afterwards, the property-tax was brought under the consideration of the House, and it was rejected by a large majority. What was the result? Within a week from that time, the Secretary at War came down and withdrew his Army Estimates, in order to amend and reduce them. If, then, they enforced upon the Government the necessity of reducing the malt-tax and other taxes, they would obtain a reduction of the public expenditure.

Mr. DISRAELI replied, justifying his case against the principal objections—namely, that his allegations were not correct, that his scheme was impracticable, and that if practicable it would not benefit the farmer; but for the most part he did so in very general terms. He retorted Lord John's banter; reminding him that he had pledged himself to an eight-shilling duty on corn, and offering to accept that now. He reminded Lord John also, that he himself, who was now surprised at Mr. Disraeli's "secrecy," had laid on the table certain celebrated resolutions [on the Irish Poor-law], and proposed to go into Committee without explaining his plan. In Committee, Mr. Disraeli would be prepared to explain the remedy that he proposed; and he endeavoured to show that his plan would benefit the farmer. If £5,000,000 were raised on property not now subject to poor-rate, it would require a rate of 6½d. in the pound; in common with other classes, the farmer would have to pay 1s. at 6½d. in the pound, in lieu of half his present rates; but those rates are at present in some places as high as 8s. in the pound. By some combination of parties Ministers might extricate themselves from the embarrassment which his resolution might occasion them, but the only consequence of rejecting that resolution would be a proposition conceived in a sterner spirit of justice.

Do not suppose that the various classes of the interest you have been conspiring to injure will renounce for a moment the resolve of obtaining at your hands those measures of redress and compensation which you now refuse [loud cheers]. I tell you that you will, before this session ends, if you do not do them justice, be appealed to a third time—you will be appealed to like the unknown stranger in the Roman legend. We will come a third time; only one book will remain, and on it will be inscribed, "Protected and regenerated England." [Loud and protracted applause].

The House divided first on Mr. Hume's amendment: negated by 394 to 70—majority 324. It then divided on Mr. Disraeli's resolutions: negated by 280 to 189—majority 91.

THE BUDGET.

The House of Commons sat in Committee of Supply on Friday night, on the Navy Estimates. Previously, however, Mr. Hume moved the following resolution, as an amendment on the order of the day: he prefaced it with allusions to Whig promises of retrenchment, extracts from Sir R. Peel's speeches, and complaints of honourable friends behind him, who talked so loud that he could not hear himself read:—

That, in the present state of the finances of the country, her Majesty's Ministers, before calling on this House to vote the estimates for the public service, should submit a general financial statement of the whole or expected revenues, and the total intended expenditure, for the ensuing financial year.

Sir CHARLES WOOD observed, that from time immemorial it had been the practice to take votes in Committee of Supply before making the financial statement in Committee of Ways and Means; according to the rational rule, well defined by Mr. Herries, in a statement which he laid before the committee on public expenditure in 1828:—

The exigencies of the State, for the maintenance of its safety and honour, and the promotion of its essential interests well understood, constitute the limits beyond which no contribution should be drawn from the people of this country. The revenue, upon this principle, ought to be adapted to the expenditure, not the expenditure to the revenue.

Supported by Mr. COBDEN, and partially by Col. SIBTHORP, the amendment was negated by 97 to 48.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having gone into committee, Mr. WARD made the statement on the Naval Estimates. He devoted considerable pains to explain the nature of various excesses; endeavouring to make it understood that the present Government was not answer-

able for them. For example, in 1846-7, the average amount of seamen's wages was taken at £36 8s. 11d.; but on looking more closely, he found that the real average was £38 15s. 3d.; the difference caused an excess of expenditure over the estimate in 1847-8 of £70,524. The Admiralty is not always able to control the amount of wages to seamen; as they vary in amount, and are necessarily paid by a sort of running account. Again: the number of seamen forms the basis of the whole estimate [cheers]. He expected that cheer, but such is the fact: any excess necessitates a supplementary vote, and deranges the other parts of the estimates. Going over a series of years, he found that the average of former "excesses" in number of men had been 3,969. Other causes of excess in the last estimates were the Irish relief service, naval reinforcements for New Zealand, the Kaffir war, and naval operations in the Rio de la Plata, China, and Borneo. These excesses had continually weighed on his mind, incessantly disturbing every one of his calculations; and they had also been a source of extreme solicitude to Lord Auckland: to whose memory Mr. Ward paid a tribute of friendly respect. He vindicated the amount of the present estimates; touching upon the causes of increased expenditure in the way of additional charges thrown upon that branch of the service—packet service, conveyance of convicts, &c. The present estimates, however, would include 3,000 men less than the estimates last year, and would show a nett saving of £730,000; besides a saving of £208,000 effected in August last. Among other items, there is a reduction of £100,000 (not £188,000, as he anticipated last year) for steam machinery. The works at Woolwich, Chatham, Pembroke, and Deptford, are finished; and at Portsmouth no vote will be required beyond the ensuing financial year. Indeed, the only works of importance still in progress are those at Devonport and Bermuda; those at Bermuda being in a very unsatisfactory state, and occasioning considerable expense, from repeated changes of plan in times past. In accordance with the suggestions of the Admiralty Committee of Revision, everything has been done to render the accounts more explicit and exact; and, after some further experience, it will be for the House to determine whether or not the works can be done better and cheaper by contract. Mr. Ward argued against the arbitrary standard of expenditure which some persons had set up in that of the year 1835: the supplies for the public necessities were at that time allowed to fall greatly behindhand. The alternations from profusion to extreme parsimony had been mischievous. It is easy for Mr. Cobden to talk against war; but the best argument to check angry passions abroad is to show that there will be some danger in indulging them. He admitted the great number of our officers; but it is unfair to compare that with the number in the French navy, France having so small a navy. The Admiralty, however, have done all they could to check the number on the half-pay list, without checking promotion.

Mr. HUME: There should be no promotion.

Mr. WARD: Then where will officers be found to embark in the profession? Reductions have been effected in the branches that most admit of retrenchment. The navy is reduced as much as it can be consistently with efficiency; and as it is, there is some difficulty in complying with the demands of our merchants for protection. Mr. Ward glanced at the recent improvements in the Admiralty, the new system of book-keeping, &c.; and he stated, that a close estimate had been made of the ship-building necessities for the next five years, which had been taken as the basis of those reductions. The number of line-of-battle ships is taken at fifty-five; fourteen are now building; in the next five years it will be necessary to launch two, independently of one coming home from Bombay, and to repair two. Mr. Ward concluded with proposing the formal vote of 40,000 men for her Majesty's fleet during the year, including 14,000 marines, and 2,000 boys.

Mr. HUME—with a glance at needless outlay, especially the African squadron, and at his own projects of budget reform—moved an amendment, to reduce the number of men by 5,000.

In the debate that followed, Mr. Ward was supported by Sir FRANCIS BARING, Mr. WODEHOUSE, Mr. MITCHELL (who gave his vote as one of confidence in Lord Palmerston), Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Captain BERKELEY, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, and Captain HARRIS. The amendment was supported by Mr. URQUHART (who would vote no confidence in Lord Palmerston), Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH (who contended that it would be necessary not only to reduce men, but also the naval works and the dead-weight of pensions, &c., and the idle redundancy of ships on foreign stations); by Mr. COBDEN, and partially by Colonel THOMPSON (who could not give up the African squadron).

In the course of his able and elaborate speech, Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH pointed out one sweeping source of expense.

Since 1840 we had expended £2,000,000 on the purchase and repair of steam machinery alone. A considerable portion of this money had been literally thrown away. For instance, on iron steamers: the last Government, with little knowledge and no experience on the subject, hastily ordered in the course of the years 1843, 1844, and 1845, twenty-one iron steamers to be built. Nine of them were to be war-steamers, five of them were to be of the largest size. When completed, these war-steamers would have cost in all half a million sterling. When some of them were nearly ready, experiments at Woolwich (unfortunately too long delayed) proved that iron-steamers were inapplicable to purposes of war; some of them were abandoned, others were converted into troop-ships. But for troop-ships the original engines were too large; smaller ones were submitted in their stead, at considerable expense. Then came the

question what to do with the original engines. To dispose of them, the project was conceived of putting them into two of our newest and best 90-gun ships, which had cost £100,000. This wise project did not meet with the approval of the navy committee, and was abandoned. The Admiralty did not seem to have managed much better with their wooden steamers of war. The nine largest had been failures. A list of them, with a brief account of their incapacities, in page 875 of the Appendix to the Report of the Navy Committee, stated that some were slow, some unserviceable, others dear, others unable to carry their guns, and one—the Gorgon—unable to work off a lee-shore. He hoped the Admiralty would avoid the mistakes of their predecessors, and not permit any of their political subordinates to become amateur naval architects.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT argued that the applicability of iron to war steamers is still a *rezata questio*; the adverse conclusion having been too precipitately adopted on insufficient experiments.

Mr. URQUHART, observing that he had a motion on the paper with respect to the employment of our naval forces, would give the Government an opportunity of saving the House the trouble and annoyance of considering it, if he could obtain a promise or assurance from the Government that her Majesty's forces would not be employed except in accordance with the law of nations, and that our admirals should not be allowed to carry on operations abroad at their pleasure.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought it would be imprudent to say, her Majesty's forces should not be employed in any case except according to Mr. Urquhart's construction of the law of nations. The views on that subject entertained by her Majesty's Government and by Mr. Urquhart were totally different. Mr. Urquhart thought that Admiral Parker should be recalled for his interference in the contest between the Neapolitan forces and the Sicilians; her Majesty's Government thought the circumstances of the case justified the interference, and they accordingly signified their approval of the Admiral's conduct through the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. There would be another opportunity for going into the merits of the case.

The House negatived Mr. Hume's motion to reduce the vote to 35,000 men, by 144 to 59. Mr. Ward's motion was then agreed to, with a number of other votes.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, on the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply to vote the Army Estimates, a communication was made by the Secretary at War respecting the intentions of the Government as to the examination of persons applying for commissions in the army.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply,

Mr. F. MAULE said the number of troops which it was proposed to maintain for the ensuing year was 103,254, her Majesty's Government having considered that, looking to the state of the colonies, and the general aspect of affairs, the country might be relieved from the cost of 10,000 men, the number of troops borne on the rolls of the army last year being 113,847. He then reviewed the various demands for troops, for which the Government had to provide. First, with respect to affairs abroad, although the alarm had to a great extent passed away, yet their aspect was not such as to permit this country to assume an entirely indifferent attitude. Secondly, in regard to the colonies, although hereafter the force there might be diminished, at present it was not considered by the Government safe or prudent to reduce its amount. Thirdly, for the preservation of peace and order at home, he stated that of the 53,000 troops at home, 27,000 and a fraction were located in England and Scotland, and 26,000 and a fraction in Ireland; and he demonstrated the necessity of keeping a sufficient number of troops in readiness to meet applications from the civil magistrates to preserve the peace of towns by referring to the number of such applications during the past year in England, and by suggesting the expediency of repressing with promptitude any apprehended collision with the civil power. Upon the last head, the furnishing reliefs of our troops in the colonies, Mr. Maule cited an opinion expressed by Sir R. Peel, who, in 1845, said it was the duty of those in charge of our military arrangements to take care that men sent abroad in the service of the country should not be exiled, but should be allowed to return to their homes within a reasonable time; but if the House complied with the proposal of Mr. Hume for a further reduction of 14,000 men, it would not be possible to carry out the wholesome rule of relieving corps in India in fifteen years, and in other colonies in ten years, with an interval of five years at home. Mr. F. Maule then took a rapid glance at the various items, pointing out the decrease which had taken place in most of the money charges, and observed that the present expenditure for the army was very little higher than that of 1835, the gross charge on the army estimates of that year being £5,906,782, and that of 1849-50, £6,142,311, the increase being only £235,000. Mr. Maule next entered into details establishing the highly improved sanitary condition of the army, and gave a most satisfactory report of the moral and general good conduct of the troops during the past year. He then addressed himself to a refutation of the charges made against the army by a body of individuals constituting themselves a Financial Reform Committee, which, he said, were not founded in justice, whilst their tone was calculated to do infinite injury to the army, by impairing the confidence of the men in their officers, thereby relaxing discipline, from which the towns would be the first to suffer.

Mr. HUME confessed that the condition of the army had been much ameliorated, and urged perseverance in the system of improvement. He defended, though not with much vigour, the Liverpool

Financial Reform Committee, admitting that they were wrong in their attack on the "clothing colonels." He denied the validity of all the four reasons assigned by Mr. F. Maule for the number of men proposed, deprecating foreign intervention, advocating a reduction of the forces in the colonies, and calling upon the Government to discountenance the applications of magistrates at home, who were too fond of calling for military aid; and he moved to reduce the number to 89,254, explaining the grounds upon which he fixed upon that number.

Mr. HENRY DRUMMOND thought, that as none of her Majesty's Ministers were present to give their opinions to the House—and no doubt they were discussing these matters over a cool bottle [a laugh]—such humble members as himself might as well have a little conversation on the subject of the estimates. He ridiculed the doctrine, that the tax-payers and civilians were the proper judges of the way in which the country is to be defended, and of the fit strength of our army. His attack upon the Manchester School brought up

Mr. M. GIBSON, who vindicated the right of civilians to form an opinion as to the exigencies of the country. It was the Manchester School—that is, the rising sense of the country—which alone enabled the Government to make head against the unreasonable demands of the professions. He should support the amendment.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL contended, that more than half of the force now in Ireland might be reduced.

After speeches from Mr. WOOD, Mr. V. SMITH, Mr. RICE, and Captain BOLDARO,

Sir W. MOLESWORTH would not be able to vote for the reduction of the force at home so long as the existing reliefs were required by the colonies; but he thought the force there might be reduced if the colonies were properly governed. He proposed to withdraw three thousand men from the Ionian Islands, to reduce the military establishment at the Cape of Good Hope to a garrison at Cape Town, to transfer Ceylon to the East India Company, to restrict our military force in the North American colonies to mere garrisons at Quebec and Halifax, and to make a large diminution of the force in the West Indies. He, therefore, supported the amendment of Mr. Hume.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD also supported that amendment, considering the amount of force proposed by the Government unnecessary and improper.

Mr. COBDEN concurred with Mr. Smith and Sir W. Molesworth in the views they took of the colonies. He protested against the alarming doctrine, which had been propounded for the first time by Mr. F. Maule, that a standing army was to be maintained for the purpose of keeping down the people. He contended that the civil power was sufficient if duly organized, provided that the people were conciliated as they ought to be; and as we had no foreign enemy that we knew of, he thought there was no necessity for keeping up so large a military establishment.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL denied that Mr. F. Maule had avowed the doctrine that a military force was maintained to keep down the people. He had said, and truly, that during the last year many demands had been made by civil and municipal authorities for troops to preserve order—not to keep down the people, but to curb ill-conditioned and disaffected persons, who desired tumult and plunder. It was a libel and calumny to confound them with the people of England. He acknowledged that in some of the colonies the force might be too great; but Sir W. Molesworth appeared to have an object in view different from that of the Government. We are in possession of a great colonial empire, and Sir William had shown how it might be diminished. If that was the object to be sought, no doubt the empire might be gradually contracted within the limits of these islands.

The committee having divided, the amendment of Mr. HUME was negatived by 182 to 40.

The vote was then agreed to.

The vote of £1,800,000, on account, for the charge of the land forces, was, after some discussion, agreed to.

Other votes on account were taken, after some incidental discussion.

A vote was likewise taken on the navy estimates; after which the resolutions were reported to the House and agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL.—In moving the second reading of his Landlord and Tenant Bill, on Wednesday, Mr. PUSEY stated that it now came before the House for the third time, as the clauses had passed through committee last session. Colonel SIBTHORP moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. This was seconded by Sir HARRY VERNY, and supported by Mr. CHRISTOPHER and Mr. MULLINGS. The bill received the hearty support of Mr. HENLEY; and was defended by Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL. On a division, the second reading was carried, by 147 to 11.

INCOME-TAX IN IRELAND.—In moving for returns to illustrate the subject in the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of WICKLOW said he had heard that no less than £8,000,000 drawn from Ireland is amenable to the Income-tax. No doubt, the amount is exaggerated; but it is certain that it reaches a very considerable sum, and cuts away the argument of those who say that Ireland is exempt. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE did not oppose the returns, but said that it might be difficult to make them complete. Instructions, however, had been given to the Board of Taxes to distinguish the several sources from which the Income-tax is derived.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—In moving, on Thursday, for "a Select Committee on existing public libraries in Great Britain and Ireland, and on the best means of extending the establishment of libraries freely open to the public, especially in large towns," Mr. Ewart observed, that England is far behind other countries in the number of public libraries; there are 107 in France; 81 in the United States of America; and on the Continent there is a regular system of lending books. Sir GEORGE GREY objected to inquire into the "existing libraries," as many are not public institutions, and the investigation would clash with the inquiry already proceeding on the library of the British Museum. Mr. Ewart agreed to omit the reference to "existing" libraries; and with that alteration the motion was agreed to.

THE SCOTCH MARRIAGE AND REGISTERING BILLS have been read a second time in the Commons, and referred to a select committee.

NAVY ESTIMATES.—Minority of 59 to 144 who voted in favour of Mr. Hume's amendment for reducing the number of men, &c., from 40,000 to 35,000 men:—

Adair, H. E.	Grenfell, C. P.	Reynolds, J.
Aglionby, H. A.	Hastie, A.	Ricardo, O.
Berkeley, C. L. G.	Headlam, T. E.	Sidney, Alderman
Blewitt, R. J.	Henry, A.	Smith, J. B.
Bouverie, E. P.	Heywood, J.	Stuart, Lord D.
Bright, J.	Heyworth, L.	Sullivan, M.
Brocklehurst, J.	Hindley, C.	Tanner, H. W.
Brotherton, J.	Hutt, W.	Thicknesse, R. A.
Cayley, E. S.	Kershaw, J.	Thompson, Colonel
Clay, J.	King, P. J. L.	Thornely, T.
Clay, Sir W.	Lushington, C.	Trelawny, J. S.
Cowan, C.	Marshall, J. G.	Urquhart, D.
Duncan, G.	Marshall, W.	Walsley, Sir J.
Ellis, J.	Milner, W. M. E.	Westhead, J. P.
Ewart, W.	Moffatt, G.	Williams, J.
Fergus, J.	Molesworth, Sir W.	Wood, W. P.
Fitzwilliam, G. W.	Morris, D.	Wyvill, M.
Fordey, A. D.	Mowatt, F.	
Gibson, T. M.	Pechell, Captain	TELLERS.
Glyn, G. C.	Perfect, R.	Hume, J.
Greene, J.	Pilkington, J.	Cobden, R.

A NEW WRIT was, on Monday night, ordered for the Northern Division of Hampshire, in the room of Sir William Heathcote, Bart., who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, in consequence of continued indisposition.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE CAPE.—In the House of Lords, on Monday, Earl GREY, in reply to Lord Stanley, stated that since the subject of transportation had been discussed in that House the Government had been made aware that the step contemplated of sending convicts to the Cape had been received with disapprobation in that colony. Despatches had been received transmitting a memorial from the colonists in opposition to the proposition, which there would be no objection to produce.

RELIEF TO POLES.—The Earl of EGLINTON moved for a return of the number of Polish refugees receiving allowances for subsistence and medical expenses between the 28th of March, 1848, and the 20th of March, 1849. The noble earl, after referring to the class of medical relief that had been supplied, complained that, while the country was undergoing all sorts of shifts in order to reduce the expenditure, the Polish refugees in England were receiving just as large an amount as ever, and protested against the people being taxed beyond what they could bear on behalf of a lawless and turbulent race, who had no claim whatever upon them. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said, that whatever the conduct of the Poles had been in other countries, they had not misbehaved themselves in this; and the effect of the bounty bestowed upon them here had been to prevent their engaging themselves in such scenes as the noble lord had described—the rule being that if recipients of it left this country they forfeited their claim to further relief. At the same time, the greatest care would be taken in the administration of the grant, in order to prevent abuse.—The return, in a modified form, was then agreed to.

THE BARRICADE OF RAILWAYS.—In the House of Commons, on Friday, in reply to the Earl of ARUNDDEL, who drew attention to the differences between the Lancashire and Yorkshire and the East Lancashire Railway Companies, Mr. LABOUCHERE stated that the Railway Commissioners had power to interfere so far as was necessary to protect the public safety, on the application of either of the contending parties. One of the companies had sent a statement to the Board; who had intimated their disposition to inquire, if application were made for inquiry.

THE POOR-LAW, AND THE LAW OF SETTLEMENTS.—In reply to Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, who asked the intentions of Ministers respecting certain improvements in the Poor-law, Mr. BAINES stated that his predecessor had directed very comprehensive inquiries into the law of settlement: the results are not yet fully known, and he did not think that the subject would be ripe for legislation this session. He proposed no measure on the law of rating this session, except to renew the temporary enactments of the Union Charges Act. A firm and discriminating use of powers already conferred by law would suffice to cure the evils of vagrancy without further legislation.

THE PORTRAIT OF CHARLES I., alleged to be the work of Velasquez, which was seized in an exhibition-room at Edinburgh some time back, by the trustees of the Earl of Fife, has been restored to the exhibitor, Mr. Snare, by a decision of Sheriff Gordon, who considered that, at present, the trustees had made out no sort of claim to the picture. An interdict was afterwards obtained from Lord Robertson to prevent Mr. Snare's conveying the painting out of the country; but when the matter was argued before the Judge, he fully agreed with the Sheriff's decision, removed the interdict, and ordered that the picture should be restored to Mr. Snare.

THE CHURCH-RATE DIVISION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday, March 13.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That it is the opinion of this House, that effectual measures should be immediately taken for the abolition of church-rates."—(Mr. Trelawny.) Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "the abolition of church-rates," in order to add the words "discharging persons dissenting from the Church as by law established from contributing to church-rates, and from taking any part in levying, assessing, or administering the same."—(Mr. Wood.) Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question." The House divided—Ayes, 183; Noes, 20.

MAJORITY—AYES.

Acland, Sir T. D.	Gibson, Rt. Hon. T. M.	Norrey, Sir D. J.
Adair, H. E.	Gore, W. R. O.	Nugent, Lord
Adare, Viscount	Goulburn, Rt. Hon. H.	O'Brien, Sir L.
Aglionby, H. A.	Greenall, G.	O'Connell, J.
Anderson, A.	Greene, J.	Osborne, R.
Anstey, T. C.	Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir G.	Pakington, Sir J.
Armstrong, R. B.	Grogan, E.	Patten, J. W.
Ashley, Lord	Gwyn, H.	Pearson, C.
Banks, G.	Hagitt, P. R.	Peel, Rt. Hon. Sir R.
Barrington, Viscount	Halford, Sir H.	Peel, F.
Bass, M. T.	Hamilton, G. A.	Peto, S. M.
Bellew, R. M.	Hardcastle, J. A.	Pilkington, J.
Bennet, P.	Harris, Hon. Captain	Plowden, W. H. C.
Berkeley, Hon. Capt.	Harris, R.	Pryse, P.
Berkeley, C. L. G.	Hastie, Alex.	Pugh, D.
Blair, S.	Hawes, B.	Rendlesham, Lord
Blewitt, R. J.	Hay, Lord J.	Rich, H.
Bourke, R. S.	Hayes, Sir E.	Richards, R.
Boyd, J.	Hayter, Rt. Hon. W. G.	Romilly, Sir J.
Bramston, T. W.	Heneage, G. H. W.	Rushout, Captain
Bremridge, R.	Henley, J. W.	Russell, John J.
Bright, J.	Henry, A.	Russell, F. C. H.
Broadley, H.	Herbert, Rt. Hon. S.	Salway, Colonel
Brooke, Lord	Heywood, J.	Sandars, G.
Brotherton, J.	Heyworth, L.	Scholefield, W.
Bruce, C. L. C.	Hildyard, R. C.	Seymer, H. K.
Buller, Sir J. Y.	Hindley, C.	Sibthorp, Colonel
Busfield, W.	Hobhouse, Rt. Hon.	Slaney, B. A.
Campbell, Hon. W. F.	Sir J.	Smith, J. B.
Chaplin, W. J.	Hodgson, W. N.	Somerville, Rt. Hon.
Cholmeley, Sir M.	Hood, Sir A.	Sir W. M.
Christopher, R. A.	Hope, A.	Sotherton, T. H. S.
Clay, J.	Howard, Lord E.	Spearman, H. J.
Clay, Sir W.	Humphrey, Ald.	Spooner, R.
Clerk, Rt. Hon. Sir G.	Jackson, W.	Stafford, A.
Codrington, Sir W.	Jervis, Sir J.	Stanley, E.
Cole, Hon. H. A.	Jones, Captain	Stanton, W. H.
Colebrooke, Sir T. E.	Ker-haw, J.	Stuart, Lord D.
Cowper, Hon. W. F.	King, Hon. P. J. L.	Sutton, J. H. M.
Cubitt, W.	Labouchere, Rt. Hon.	Taylor, T. E.
Davie, Sir H. R. F.	H.	Tennent, R. J.
Davies, D. A. S.	Langston, J. H.	Theisger, Sir F.
Devereux, J. T.	Lancelles, Hon. W. S.	Thicknesse, R. A.
Disraeli, B.	Lennard, T. B.	Thompson, Colonel
Drumlanrig, Viscount	Lennox, Lord H. G.	Thompson, G.
Duke, Sir J.	Lewis, G. C.	Thornely, T.
Duncan, Viscount	Lewisham, Viscount	Tollemache, J.
Duncan, G.	Locke, J.	Trevor, Hon. G. R.
Duncuft, J.	Long, W.	Tufnell, H.
Du Pre, C. G.	Lopes, Sir R.	Tyrell, Sir J. T.
Ebrington, Viscount	Maitland, T.	Verney, Sir H.
Elliot, Hon. J. E.	Mandeville, Viscount	Villiers, Hon. C.
Estcourt, J. B. B.	Martin, C. W.	Walsley, Sir J.
Evans, W.	Maule, Rt. Hon. F.	Wawn, J. T.
Ewart, W.	Maunsell, T. P.	Westhead, J. P.
Fagan, W.	Melgund, Viscount	Willcox, B. M. G.
Farnham, E. B.	Mitchell, T. A.	Williams, J.
Floyer, J.	Molesworth, Sir W.	Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir C.
Fox, E. M.	Monsell, W.	Wyld, J.
Fox, W. J.	Morris, D.	
Frewen, C. H.	Mowatt, F.	TELLERS.
Gaskell, J. M.	Mulgave, Earl of	Trelawny, J. S.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon.	Napier, J.	Hume, J.
W. E.	Newdegate, C. N.	

MINORITY—NOES.

Adair, R. A. S.	French, F.	Scrope, G. P.
Archdall, Capt. M.	Glyn, G. C.	Willyams, H.
Bernal, R.	Mangles, R. D.	Wilson, M.
Brocklehurst, J.	Milner, W. M. E.	
Bunbury, E. H.	Pechell, Captain	TELLERS.
Cobden, R.	Perfect, R.	Headlam, T. E.
Cotton, Hon. W. H. S.	Ricardo, O.	Wood, W. F.
D'Eyncourt, Rt. Hon.	Rice, E. R.	
C. T.	Robertes, T. J. A.	

Main question put:—The House divided—Ayes, 84; Noes, 119.

MINORITY—AYES.

Adair, H. E.	Hardcastle, J. A.	Pilkington, J.
Aglionby, H. A.	Harris, R.	Pryse, P.
Anderson, A.	Hastie, Alex.	Ricardo, O.
Bass, M. T.	Headlam, T. E.	Robertes, T. J. A.
Berkeley, C. L. G.	Henry, A.	Salway, Colonel
Bernal, R.	Heywood, J.	Scholefield, W.
Blewitt, R. J.	Heyworth, L.	Scrope, G. P.
Boyd, J.	Hindley, C.	Smith, J. B.
Brocklehurst, J.	Hume, J.	Spearman, H. J.
Brotherton, J.	Humphrey, Alderman	Stuart, Lord D.
Bunbury, E. H.	Jackson, W.	Tennent, R. J.
Busfield, W.	Jervis, Sir J.	Thicknesse, R. A.
Clay, J.	Jones, Captain	Thompson, Colonel
Clay, Sir W.	Ker-haw, J.	Thompson, G.
Cobden, R.	King, Hon. P. J. L.	Thornely, T.
Colebrooke, Sir T. E.	Langston, J. H.	Verney, Sir H.
Davie, Sir H. R. F.	Lennard, T. B.	Villiers, Hon. C.
Devereux, J. T.	Locke, J.	Walsley, Sir J.
D'Eyncourt, Rt. Hon.	Melgund, Viscount	Wawn, J. T.
C. T.	Milner, W. M. E.	Westhead, J. P.
Duke, Sir J.	Mitchell, T. A.	Willcox, B. M. G.
Duncan, Viscount	Molesworth, Sir W.	Williams, J.
Duncan, G.	Morris, D.	Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir C.
Evans, W.	Mowatt, F.	Wyld, J.
Ewart, W.	Mulgave, Earl of	
Fagan, W.	Napier, J.	TELLERS.
Fox, W. J.	Newdegate, C. N.	Trelawny, J. S.
Gibson, Rt. Hon. T. M.	Peckell, Captain	Bright, J.
Glyn, G. C.	Perfect, R.	
Greene, J.	Peto, S. M.	

MAJORITY—NOES.

Acland, Sir T. D.	Campbell, Hon. W. F.	Fox, R. M.
Adair, R. A. S.	Chaplin, W. J.	French, F.
Adare, Viscount	Cholmeley, Sir M.	Frewen, C. H.
Anstey, T. C.	Christopher, R. A.	Gaskell, J. M.
Archdall, Captain M.	Clerk, Rt. Hon. Sir G.	Gladstone, Rt. Hon.
Armstrong, R. B.	Codrington, Sir W.	W. E.
Ashley, Lord	Cole, Hon. H. A.	Gore, W. R. O.
Banks, G.	Cotton, Hon. W. H. S.	Goulburn, Rt. Hon. H.
Barrington, Viscount	Cowper, Hon. W. F.	Greenall, G.
Bellew, R. M.	Cubitt, W.	Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir G.
Bennet, P.	Davies, D. A. S.	Grogan, E.
Berkeley, Hon. Capt.	Disraeli, B.	Gwyn, H.
Blair, S.	Drumlanrig, Viscount	Hagitt, F. R.
Bourke, R. S.	Duncuft, J.	Halford, Sir H.
Bramston, T. W.	Du Pre, C. G.	Hamilton, G. A.
Bremridge, R.	Ebrington, Viscount	Harris, Hon. Captain
Broadley, H.	Elliot, Hon. J. E.	Hawes, B.
Brooke, Lord	Estcourt, J. B. B.	Hay, Lord J.
Bruce, C. L. C.	Farnham, E. B.	Hayes, Sir E.
Buller, Sir J. Y.	Floyer, J.	Hayter, Rt. Hon. W. G.

Heneage, G. H. W.	Martin, C. W.	Sibthorp, Colonel
Henley, J. W.	Maule, Rt. Hon. F.	Slaney, B. A.
Herbert, Rt. Hon. S.	Maunsell, T. P.	Somerville, Rt. Hon.
Hildyard, R. C.	Monsell, W.	Sir W. M.
Hobhouse, Rt. Hon.	Mulgave, Earl of	Sotherton, T. H. S.
Sir J.	Napier, J.	Spooner, R.
Hodgson, W. N.	Newdegate, C. N.	Stafford, A.
Hood, Sir A.	O'Brien, Sir L.	Stanley, E.
Hope, A.	Pakington, Sir J.	Stanton, W. H.
Howard, Lord E.	Patten, J. W.	Sutton, J. H. M.
Jervis, Sir J.	Peel, Rt. Hon. Sir R.	Taylor, T. E.
Jones, Captain	Peel, F.	Theisger, Sir F.
Labouchere, Rt. Hon.	Plowden, W. H. C.	Tollemache, J.
H.	Pugh, D.	Trevor, Hon. G. R.
Lancelles, Hon. W. S.	Rendlesham, Lord	Tufnell, H.
Lennox, Lord H. G.	Rich, H.	Tyrell, Sir J. T.
Lewis, G. C.	Richards, R.	Wood, Right Hon.
Lewisham, Viscount	Romilly, Sir J.	Sir C.
Long, W.	Rushout, Captain	
Lopes, Sir R.	Russell, Lord J.	TELLERS.
Maitland, T.	Russell, F. C. H.	Rice, E. R.
Mandeville, Viscount	Sandars, G.	Wood, W. P.
Mangles, R. D.	Seymer, H. K.	

FOR. Colonel Clifford, C. W. Grenfell, F. O'Connor, R. Currie.

PAIRS.

AGAINST. Pole Carew, J. S. Wortley, Roundell Palmer, W. Miles.

Mr. Henry Berkeley, M.P., for Bristol, had paired with Mr. Hall, M.P. for West Gloucestershire, and Mr. Pattison with Mr. Maunsell, until half-past nine o'clock, the former in favour of, the latter against Mr. Trelawny's motion for the abolition of church-rates; and arriving before the second division, they were excluded in consequence of the doors not being opened between the divisions, as complained of by Mr. Bouverie. Sir De Lacy Evans and Mr. Lushington, M.P., having been earnestly requested to attend on Tuesday night an anniversary dinner of the St. James Benevolent Institution (Westminster), were thus unintentionally and much to their regret prevented from recording their votes in support of Mr. Trelawny's motion for the abolition of these rates, the two divisions on which unexpectedly commenced at the unusually early hour of a quarter past nine o'clock. Independently of which Sir D. L. Evans and Mr. Lushington had been positively assured that the motion was intended to be put off.

Mr. Cowan was prevented from voting for Mr. Trelawny's motion for the abolition of church-rates, by having been unexpectedly locked out.

From the above division list it will be seen that, in the statement in our last, the numbers for the amendment and original resolution were inverted. The error was shared in by nearly all the daily papers, as well as by our own reporter.

A LECTURE ON PHONOGRAPHY was delivered on Tuesday evening, at the Whittington Club, by Mr. Reed, of the Phonographic Institution, Strand. The principles of the system were explained, and their practical utility was tested by some experiments at the close of the lecture. Passages in English, French, Dutch, &c., were read to the lecturer, who took them down in the Phonetic system as rapidly as they were uttered, and read them from his notes without the least error or hesitation. At the close of the lecture a numerous class was formed to receive instruction in the art.

OPENING OF THE NEW BRITISH SCHOOL, WRITTLE.—On Tuesday evening, the British School, Writtle, built and furnished by J. A. Hardcastle, Esq., M.P., was opened, when a large party took tea in the new building. A public meeting was held immediately after, at which the Rev. Alexander Fletcher, D.D., presided with his usual ability and excellent spirit, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. Law, Kluht, Bowman, and Cock, and Messrs. Wells, Copland, Challis, Dowson, Perry, and F. Wells. On the motion of the Rev. J. B. Law, the meeting most cordially congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle on the deep interest taken by them in the intellectual and moral improvement of the rising generation, and separated much encouraged to hope that the Writtle British School, under the blessing of God, would long continue to be instrumental in training young minds for the duties and enjoyment of the present life, and in preparing them for the more important engagements of the life that is to come.

EGGINGTON, BEDS.—A public meeting was held in the Independent Chapel, Eggington, Beds, on Monday, the 12th inst., being the first anniversary of the British School in that village. The chair was taken at half-past six o'clock, by Mr. John Olney, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. W. Thomas, W. Paine, J. Andrews, and J. Sleight; also, by Messrs. W. Hoperoff and T. Bradbury. Upwards of seventy friends were present at tea, which had been provided and arranged for the benefit of the school fund. The report given by those who had examined the school, and the statements made respecting the zeal and harmonious co-operation of the committee, and the state of the finances, were very satisfactory, and creditable to all who had manifested their interest in the establishment and success of this good work.

The Scottish Press states, that the Queen "fully appreciating the motives which led to the establishment, and being, moreover, very sensible of the importance of the objects to be attained by an extensive circulation of such a publication as *Hogg's Instructor*, has been very graciously pleased to permit the *Instructor* to be published under her Majesty's special patronage."

A MERCHANT PRINCE OF LIVERPOOL.—William Brown, Esq., our excellent county member, has presented a donation of £250 in aid of the funds of the Mechanics' Institution. The same gentleman gave £1,000 to the Northern Hospital some time ago, and by many other munificent subscriptions to our local charities and institutions, he has proved himself to be a "merchant prince" indeed.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

IRELAND.

THE RATE IN AID PROJECT still meets with the vigorous opposition of the men of the North. The meetings of the counties of Armagh and Down have been the most important that the anti-rate in aid agitation has produced. Colonel Blacker, a great favourite of the northern people, delivered a stirring speech at Armagh, which was received with great applause. At the Down meeting, the Marquis of Downshire vied with Lord Massareene in the virulence of the language he employed against the project. He denounced it as "this most partial, impolitic, and rascally measure;" declared his intention of opposing the rate, "as an individual;" and expressed his carelessness about being called a rebel. Lord Roden also made a strong speech at the same meeting, and said it was the worst measure ever inflicted upon Ulster. It is worthy of remark that men of all parties are to be found in this agitation. Thus, at the Down meeting, were the Marquis of Downshire, and Mr. Sharman Crawford, Lord Bangor, and Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Ross, of Rosstrevor, and Lord Roden.

BANKRUPT ENNIS.—The state of things in the Ennis union is desperate indeed. There are not less than 25,000 persons receiving relief. The weekly expenditure is £900; and on the 25th of March the union will owe £10,000 sterling. One-third of the population are on the relief list.

THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.—Turning to the South, the number of auctions, the crowds of emigrants, and more than all, the class of those running from the land sacred to pestilence and pauperism, are striking features in the times. Families of note letting their places furnished; heads of ancient houses living at Brussels—(emigrants to the Low Countries from the lowest of all nations in Europe). Deputy-lieutenants and magistrates glad to risk their lives as vice-guardians, for the sake of a salary similar to what many of them used to give their stewards! Such are the dismal symptoms of the social crisis, of which there is no decrease.—*Daily News*.

STARVATION, AND PETER PENCE.—The Repeal prints teem with lists of deaths by starvation, and with catalogues of contributors to Pius the Ninth. While famine and pestilence are stalking through the land, the clink of Peter's pence is heard, reminding one that the rate collectors of his Holiness are expecting contributions. The *Nenagh Guardian* reports a dreadful case of starvation:—"Bridget Collins, a poor woman, thirty years of age, was turned out of her cabin at Birdhill, in Tipperary. On Thursday, the 9th, she went with her three children (orphans) to her sister's house, and asked for shelter for the night. The inhuman sister would not admit them, but told them to be off, and shut the door in their faces. At the next house they were not let in either. The mother went to a ditch, and her children huddled themselves around her. The rain poured in torrents. The mother was utterly exhausted and in the pangs of death. The eldest girl, aged twelve, dragged her into an uninhabited hovel, and there her corpse was found in the morning, her children crying over it. She had got a stone and a half of Indian meal from the relieving officer, but had neither fire to cook it, nor money to get fuel. At the inquest before the coroner, it was proved that the poor creature had not had food for several days!" This and other tragedies of starvation are occurring amongst a people, benumbed, callous, and case-hardened from misery. In Nenagh, groups of half-naked, trembling creatures crowd round the houses, begging alms. Many farmers are giving their labourers a penny a day and food, and upon such recompense the poor Celts are to be thrifty and saving. Creatures whose lives can hardly be saved are admonished by the Ulster people to be saving in their habits!

THE MISSES M'VEAGH.—There seems now to be a very general feeling in the North in favour of the Misses M'Veagh, whose courage was so unhand-somely denied for party purposes. They have recently been presented with a very handsome silver teapot, given to them by some of their English admirers. There is on the teapot a short and suitable inscription, and on the lid is a chased representation of a gun and bayonet meeting at a point.

A NEW COADJUTOR IN SCOTLAND.—An Aberdeen correspondent writes:—"In your address at the *Nonconformist* soirée you say, referring to the principles of your able journal, 'We need to have organs of utterance for the expression of sound opinions and true principles. I should like to know that these organs of expression are increasing, not simply in the metropolis, but especially in the provinces.' I beg, therefore, to inform you, that a few Dissenting friends in Aberdeen have just purchased the *North of Scotland Gazette*—a paper, hitherto, avowedly neutral, but in the hands of Tories; and we intend to make the attempt, at least, to establish it as an organ for the diffusion, in a small way, of the principles which you have so long and so successfully advocated. As you know what it is to struggle into existence under adverse influences, perhaps you would have the kindness to favour us with an editorial notice of the change, and say a word or two to Dissenters here on their duty to assist us in obtaining a footing in the place, and making up for the falling off of the old Tory subscribers."

Mr. J. A. Froude, author of a work just published, entitled "The Nemesis of Faith," has resigned his fellowship at Exeter College, Oxford, having accepted the office of Master to the High-school of Hobart-town, Van Diemen's Land. His book has been publicly burned by the authorities in the College-hall.

BARRICADING A RAILWAY.

A quarrel between the East Lancashire Railway Company and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company has lately given rise to occurrences full of inconvenience and risk to the public. It appears that the East Lancashire Railway Company use the railway of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company from Clifton to Manchester, and pay rent for it. Some disagreement has sprung up; and the landlord company has called on the renting company to stop its trains at Clifton, and allow an inspection of the cargoes and a collection of tickets at that station. These points the East Lancashire Company have refused; Clifton being an inconvenient place to stop all their trains at: alleging, moreover, that abundant facilities already exist for checking the returns, and that the demand is only vexatiously and injuriously made on account of some late extensions of their line, which brought them into competition with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company for the traffic between Manchester and Bradford. In the course of last week, a formal notice was served on the East Lancashire Company, demanding the stoppage of the trains on Sunday; and on that day Captain Laws, the manager of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company, proceeded to enforce a compliance with the demand by physical means. He proceeded from Manchester, accompanied by a gang of navigators armed with crow-bars, to the points where the two lines join at Clifton, and threw a huge balk of timber across their own line to Manchester in the way of the coming East Lancashire trains; and to secure it against forcible removal, he drove iron rods into the earth in its rear and backed up against it an engine and six empty railway carriages. A great number of persons crowded to the spot to witness the operations, and a strong body of police attended to prevent a breach of the peace; for it was known that the East Lancashire intended to muster a numerous gang of servants and navigators with the object of gently overpowering the physical force arrayed against them, or of adopting retaliatory measures. The approaching trains were signalled before coming to the hindrance, and the first train which came in sight drew up and stopped at the Clifton station. Captain Laws' myrmidons flocked to the doors of the carriages, to count the passengers and demand their tickets. The tickets having been already collected at a previous station, the Captain intimated to the passengers that their journey in the carriages of the East Lancashire Company was at an end, and that the train of empty carriages, which backed up the timber obstruction, was at their service to carry them on to Manchester. Some of the passengers availed themselves of this offer, and Captain Laws' train bore them off.

At this juncture, the East Lancashire force marched against the timber obstruction, and succeeded in throwing it off the rails. But before the line was quite clear, Captain Laws ordered up carriages and additional engines in the place of the departed train; and, putting on his breaks and reversing his engine-gear, he resisted the advance of the East Lancashire. Inferior at this game, the East Lancashire suddenly brought up a stone train, and by rapid manipulation of the points, threw it forward on to their adversary's line abreast of their own blockaded train, and then by skilful measures so completely locked it there that both lines were effectually closed to all trains of either company coming to or from Manchester. It is stated that the struggle was managed with "great forbearance and good temper" by the opposing forces, so that the police did not interfere.

By about noon, no fewer than eight trains, extending side by side for more than half a mile, had accumulated on the up and down sides of the obstructed and obstructing trains. The passengers, in alarm, got out and remonstrated with the commanders of the hostile armies, but were vouchsafed no explanations or redress; some of them are said to have taken post vehicles, and threatened to bring actions for expenses and damages.

The matter having arrived at this point, Captain Laws retired to Manchester, ordering his lieutenant, Mr. Blackmore, to maintain his ground to the last; but the latter relented, and before evening the lines were cleared, the trains resumed their course, and the East Lancashire apparently carried its point.

On Monday, the contest was renewed on other ground, and was fought with such pertinacity and skill, as to attract a large assembly of spectators; the police again attending to see "fair play," and at last interfering to preserve peace. "The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company," says the *Manchester Examiner and Times*, "have an immense yard for goods in Irwell-street, Salford, on a level below the railway, where the goods are first put into the railway waggons, and then hoisted, waggon and all, upon the railway. In this yard the East Lancashire, on payment of toll, have an accommodation for loading and hoisting their goods on to the line. It has been customary for the East Lancashire to weigh their goods before passing them forward towards the hoist, and then passing with them a declaration of particulars. The Lancashire and Yorkshire then pass the goods over a weighing-machine to test the declaration, and proceed to hoist the goods. Latterly, however, the East Lancashire Company have refused to make the declaration until their goods were first hoisted on the line. On Monday, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company having given notice that they would not hoist the goods unless accompanied with the declaration, the East Lancashire proceeded to enforce the hoisting *vi et armis*, by their own servants. They ran their carriages up towards the hoist, and blocked up the approaches. For a time these measures suspended operations; but a little before six o'clock the men

under the command of Captain Laws, set to work to clear away the obstruction, and were resisted by the East Lancashire Company's navvies. A scene of great excitement followed, each party using their crow-bars as levers to move or prevent the moving of the waggons. The East Lancashire brought a second engine and goods-train to their assistance; but Captain Laws brought up three powerful engines which grappled with the goods-engine, and despite its efforts, dragged it and all the mass attached to it from the position of obstruction. One of the East Lancashire men, in the excitement of the moment, flourished his crow-bar round his head in such a way as to strike the Superintendent of Police, who thereupon ordered him and three companions equally demonstrative into arrest; this seems to have abated the ardour of the combatants, and soon after the strife ceased. The four persons arrested were taken before the Magistrate, but were liberated on its appearing that the actual blow given to the Superintendent was accidental.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE, AND EAST LANCASHIRE.—Captain Laws and Mr. Hacking, met at Salford station this (Saturday) morning, and came to an amicable arrangement of matters in dispute between the two companies. We therefore hope we shall not hear of a repetition of Monday's folly.—*Manchester Examiner and Times*.

LAW AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

INCENDIARISM.—At Maidstone Assizes, on Tuesday week, Charles Ableton, a boy of 12, was tried for setting fire to a stack of straw. The principal evidence against him was his own admission of guilt when before a magistrate; but this was extracted by some one—not the magistrate—directly asking him whether he had fired the stack. The counsel for the defence commented on this, and the judge condemned it. Verdict, "Not guilty."—Humphrey and Ellis, youths of 18, were indicted for setting fire to a barn at Brenchley, which was consumed, with produce worth £500. The farmer had ordered Humphrey off his grounds. The chief witness was a convicted felon, who stated that he heard the prisoners propose to make the fire; they wanted him to assist. Both were convicted, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

CONVICTIONS FOR MURDER.—At Salisbury Assizes, John Smith, a blacksmith, was tried for the murder of Eleanor Lawrence, at Collingbourne Ducis, in August last. The circumstances of the case were mentioned at the time. The woman was found dreadfully mangled on the road. Smith went to a clergyman's house, and asked for alms; and when he was refused, he assailed the gentleman with stones. On his arrest for this assault, he let words escape him showing that he had killed the young woman. The line of defence taken up by the prisoner's counsel was, that the man was insane—there was no motive whatever for the crime—it could only be accounted for by insane impulse. Cross-examination of surgical witnesses had not supported this defence. Lord Denman warned the jury that they must not be led away by what doctors say about insane impulses: too easy credence in such theories would be dangerous to society; and in the present case, there was no evidence to prove insanity. The jury quickly returned a verdict of "Guilty," and sentence of death was passed.—At Worcester Assizes, Robert Pulley, a middle-aged man, was tried for the murder of a young girl, Mary Ann Staigh, near Pershore. The circumstantial proofs were very clear that Pulley was the assassin—he had been heard to threaten the girl; she was found dead in a ditch, from blows on the head; many circumstances showed that the accused had inflicted the wounds. His counsel endeavoured to make out by cross-examination that Pulley was insane at the time; and it did appear that he was very "strange" in his conduct. There was no defence to the facts. Verdict, "Guilty." Sentence of death was passed.

POISONING.—George Howe was tried at York for the murder of his infant child, at Yarm, by administering oxalic acid. The man had recently become a widower; he courted a woman possessed of some money, and they were to be married; but he told her he had lost his wife two years before, and said nothing about the infant. To others he complained of the encumbrance of the child, and he ill-treated it. The evidence clearly showed that he put oxalic acid in its food, while its nurse had left the room for a few moments; and by that poison the child was killed. Howe was convicted and sentenced to death.

SLANDER.—FRYER v. GATHERCOLE, VICAR OF CHATTERIS.—At the Norfolk Assizes this case came on for decision. Mr. Sergeant Byles stated the case. The defendant, the Rev. Michael Augustus Gathercole, was the vicar of Chatteris, and was, by himself or his trustees, the proprietor of the advowson. Before becoming a clergyman of the Church of England he had been a Dissenter. Many of Mr. Fryer's relatives were Dissenters, but himself is a member of the Church of England, and had regularly attended Chatteris Church. Mr. Fryer, it appears, was afflicted with a tendency to short naps on Sunday afternoons, and Mr. Gathercole preached one afternoon from the text of Moses' devotion to his spiritual duties; turning to Mr. Fryer's pew, and seeing him asleep, instead of the words, "enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season," he altered them to "enjoying the pleasures of sleep for a season" [loud laughter]. This sort of abuse and personal insults was what was constantly heard in Chatteris Church, and there were constant unmistakable taunts directed against Mr. Fryer. Mr. Gathercole, in a pamphlet, accused his parishioners

of being liars, slanderers, hypocrites, full of hatred and lying towards him ever since he had been in the parish [laughter]. Upon this Mr. Fryer determined to attend the service of the church, but to leave before the sermon commenced, and the counsel would show that persons who were in the church at the time were not even aware of Mr. Fryer's retirement, so decently was it done. Mr. Gathercole determined to gratify his revenge by writing a scurrilous pamphlet. In it Mr. Fryer was challenged to show that his conduct was different from that of the rebellious Chartist in London, or the Popish repealers in Ireland. It charged him with being a violator of the laws of God, by farming on a Sunday; and insinuated that he, or some of his family, was the author of a vile anonymous letter which had been sent to the rev. gentleman. Mr. Fryer went to church even after that pamphlet was issued, and was only compelled to leave it on account of the subsequent abusive character of the rev. defendant's preaching. The pamphlet was put in and read, and witnesses were examined, who proved the facts detailed by the learned sergeant. Mr. Prendergast addressed the jury for the defence. The Lord Chief Baron, in the course of his summing up, said:—"It was right to say, that the defendant could not be justified in firing off a pamphlet after Mr. Fryer because he left the Church. That was an indecorous mode of vindicating himself; and he might have better effected his object by a letter, or even from the pulpit, whence indecorous behaviour in church might be rebuked with great propriety. I do not feel competent, nor am I called on, to sit in judgment on the peculiar subjects usually selected by Mr. Gathercole for his sermons, or the manner in which he may think it proper to discharge his clerical duties. His attacks on Dissent have, at least, been uniform since he came to Chatteris, and it may be that they are characterized by over-zeal, but that must be left entirely to his own discretion; and if they are sincere, they are entitled to respect. I have looked over this pamphlet, and, though the language is strong, I cannot find a line which is not justified by the word of God; but I must say, that I entirely disapprove of this channel of communication between a minister and his parishioners. However, it is for you to say whether you think that the language of the defendant is libellous. On this, and the question of the plea of justification, you are the sole judges; and on them, and the amount of damages, if you find for the plaintiff, you must come to such a determination as your experience and knowledge of the world may suggest to you." The jury deliberated a little time; and, before retiring, the Foreman asked what was the lowest sum which would carry costs? His Lordship, however, declined to afford them any insight into the mysteries of the Master's office; and the jury, after an absence of three hours and a half, returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 40s.

COURT, OFFICIAL, AND PERSONAL NEWS.

On Saturday, the Speaker of the House of Commons gave a grand dinner, and his first levee for the session, at Eaton-square.

The Countess Dowager of Mulgrave (mother of the Marquis of Normanby), expired somewhat suddenly, on Saturday morning, at her residence in Eaton-square.

SIR C. J. NAPIER. — DINNER.—On Saturday a Court of Directors was held at the East India-house, when General Sir Charles James Napier, G.C.B., was sworn in Commander-in-Chief of the Company's forces, and an extraordinary member of the council of India. Sir Charles J. Napier afterwards dined with the Court of Directors at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, when they were honoured with the company of the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Marquis of Sligo, the Earl of Clare, Viscount Hardinge, Lord Campbell, Sir George Grey, Sir T. Baring, Sir J. Hobhouse, Sir James Graham, the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, the Right Hon. Fox Maule, the Right Hon. R. Lalor Sheil, Sir John Romilly, and several civil and military officers of high rank. Only one or two of the London journals obtained tickets of admission. The Chairman proposed, in a highly laudatory speech, the health of the new commander of the British forces in India. Sir Charles Napier, in acknowledging the toast to his health, said:—

I go to India at the command of her Majesty, by the recommendation of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, and I believe I go also with the approbation of my countrymen [much cheering]. Two considerations prevented my declining this grand and honourable command. The first was, that I have the kind advice and assistance of the greatest soldier in the world [loud cheers]. The next was, that I go forth with the most full and perfect confidence in the support and cordial co-operation which I shall receive from her Majesty's Ministers and the hon. Court of Directors [loud cheers]. But at present, my lords and gentlemen, you will, I think, all agree with me that the old proverb applies, "Least said is soonest mended;" and that I should conclude by praying to God that I may not disappoint the confidence of her Majesty, the recommendation of his Grace the Commander-in-Chief, the expectations of the Court of Directors, and the confidence of the people of England [loud cheers].

Sir Charles received compliments on all sides; from the Duke of Wellington, Sir G. Grey, Sir J. Hobhouse, Lord Hardinge, &c. In allusion to the present state of affairs in the Punjab the Duke of Wellington said:—

It is well known that I do not consider the existing state of things as one of most extraordinary emergency

[cheers]. I have seen that the object of the war has been attained [cheers]. A great fortress, which it was perfectly necessary to possess, in order to maintain our power, has fallen into our hands, after a long siege, by the unqualified surrender of the enemy. True, great loss has been sustained; but I must say, if we are to fight great battles, if great risks are to be run, we must expect to incur losses in the attainment of great ends [cheers].

A letter was read from Lord John Russell excusing his absence on account of company, but expressing "his strong sense of the military genius of Sir C. Napier."

A deputation to urge on the Home Secretary opposition to the proposed measure of Mr. Locke, the member for Honiton, to render the running of trains on the Lord's-day compulsory, had an interview on Saturday with Sir George Grey. The deputation consisted of Lord Ashley, M.P.; Mr. Cowan, M.P.; Mr. Heald, M.P.; Mr. Forbes, M.P.; Mr. Spooner, M.P.; Mr. Joseph Wilson (Honorary Secretary), the Rev. J. T. Baylie (Clerical Secretary to the Lord's-day Society), Mr. John Bridges, General M'Innes, Mr. Sidebottom, and Mr. Henderson.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE.—An act of suicide, on the part of a young and newly-married female, took place a short time since, at the retired village of Leavesden, near Watford. The deceased was a young woman of excellent character, and had lived in service, for two or three years, at Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, where, it is said, she "kept company" with a young man, with whom her future marriage was partly arranged. Circumstances occasioned her removal to Watford, where she attracted the attention of a respectable young man, named Downer, the son of the keeper of the village ale-house, at Leavesden. The second lover plied his suit so successfully that, aided by the recommendation of the deceased's own relatives, the former attachment was soon forgotten, and a marriage agreed upon between the deceased and himself. This marriage was solemnised on the Sunday, and after the ceremony, the newly-wedded pair took possession of a neatly-furnished cottage in Leavesden, intending to make it their future residence. The husband remained at home on the Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday morning he left home for the purpose of resuming his occupation, that of a carpenter, at Watford. Before leaving, he laid the fire for his wife, who remained in bed at the time of his departure. In the evening, on his return home, he found his cottage door fastened. Imagining that his wife might be gone to her father-in-law's, he hastened there to meet her; but, on inquiry, it appeared that they had seen nothing of her all day. Returning to his cottage, and finding the door still locked, he burst it open, when he was surprised to find the fire just as he had left it in the morning. On proceeding up stairs he was horror-struck at discovering his wife, in her night-dress, suspended by a cord to the bed-post, and quite cold and stiff. Medical assistance was called in, but death having taken place many hours previously, of course nothing could be done. A close examination discovered nothing leading to any explanation, on the part of the deceased, of the rash act she had committed, but it was quite evident that her purpose had been most determined, and that she had hung herself almost immediately after her husband's departure in the morning.

BIRTH.

March 14, at Ealing, Middlesex, the wife of the Rev. G. J. ADENEY, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

March 13, at George-street Chapel, Ryde, Isle of Wight, by the Rev. O. Winslow, of Leamington, the Rev. THOMAS MANN, of West Cowes, to ELIZA, eldest daughter of the late Sir J. GIBBONS, Bart., of Stanwell-park, Middlesex.

March 13, at George-street Chapel, Ryde, Isle of Wight, by the Rev. G. W. Conder, Mr. JEREMIAH JENNINGS to Miss JANE BARKHAM, both of Ryde.

March 13, at the New London-road Chapel, Chelmsford, by the Rev. R. Bowman, the Rev. JOSEPH MORISON, Jun., of Romford, to SARAH, second daughter of Mr. KETLEY, of Wallis-farm, Boreham.

March 14, at Brown-street Chapel, Salisbury, by the Rev. J. W. Todd, Mr. J. H. DAWKINS, accountant, &c., to Miss ANNE NASH, of Milford-street, both of this city.

March 15, at the Independent Chapel, Clutton, Somerset, by the Rev. G. Nettleship, JOSEPH RAPPS to PRISCILLA JAMES.

March 15, at St. John's Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Foster, Mr. JONATHAN MARSHALL, drysalter, Fareley, to MARY, second daughter of the late W. TURNER, Esq., stuff manufacturer, Cross-Hill, Craven.

March 20, at Providence Chapel, Austin-street, Shoreditch, by the Rev. W. Miall, the minister, Mr. CHARLES HARMAN, eldest son of Mr. Harman, Shoreditch, to MARY, eldest daughter of Mr. W. CUBITT, Charles-square, Hoxton.

March 20, at George-street Chapel, Oxford, by the Rev. J. Spence, M.A., of Preston, GEORGE THOMASIN, Esq., of Witham, Essex, to MARY ELIZABETH, daughter of M. UNDERHILL, Esq., of Oxford.

Lately, at Chapel-street Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. J. Raven, Mr. JAMES THOMSON to Miss BUTTERWORTH, both of Manchester.

DEATHS.

Jan. 2, killed by a matchlock-ball, during the assault of Moulton, whither he had travelled to witness the operations of the siege, aged 25, MONTAGUE BOULTON, Esq., third son of the late M. R. Boulton, Esq., of Soho, Staffordshire, and Tew-park, Oxfordshire.

Feb. 2, at Norwich, after a protracted illness, which was borne with Christian fortitude, ELIZABETH, the beloved wife of Mr. VIGGIN, watchmaker, and sister to Mr. D. Dyball, of London. She was for forty years a member of the churches assembling in the Tabernacle, Moorfields, London, and the Old Meeting at Norwich, having joined the first of these churches at the age of sixteen.

March 8, SARAH, relict of the late D. CRESPIN, Esq., of Royston.

March 9, Mrs. SUSANNA PARRY, widow of the late T. Parry, South-place, Dalston, many years a member of Maberly Chapel, Ball's Pond-road.

March 10, in his 62nd year, the Rev. JOHN WHITE, having been settled in Northwram for more than thirty years. A large family survive to mourn his loss.

March 16, at Hammersmith, after a long and painful illness, in her 51st year, CATHERINE, the beloved wife of Mr. W. MORISON, and second daughter of the late T. Agutter, Esq., of Deptford, Kent.

March 17, at 68, Eaton-place, the Dowager Countess of MULDRAVE.

PAPER, STAMP, AND ADVERTISEMENT DUTIES.—The letter-press printers of Glasgow, at a meeting held on Tuesday last, unanimously agreed to petition the House of Commons for a repeal or reduction of the duty on paper, the stamp duty on newspapers, and the duty on advertisements, as inflicting injurious restrictions on their profession, by which large numbers of them are out of employment.

MONEY MARKET AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.

The English Funds have been very heavy from the date of our last publication, and the feeling of the dealers and speculators in public securities has been one of great anxiety, both from the fall in the Funds themselves, and from the causes which have operated to produce the decline—chiefly the unsettled aspect of continental politics, affecting the maintenance of peace. Of all the Home Funds, perhaps Consols bear relatively the most value at present, and when it will be shown that a decline of 2½ per cent. has been felt in this security, some indication will be given of the state of the Stock Market. The following table represents the closing prices of the principal Stocks during the week:—

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per Ct. Cons.	92 1/4	91 1/4	90 3/4	90	90	90 1/2
Cons. for Acct.	92 1/4	91 1/4	90 3/4	90	90	90 1/2
3 per Ct. Red.	shut	shut	shut	91	91	91 1/2
New 3½ per Ct.						
Annuities...	92 3/4	shut	shut	—	—	91 1/2
India Stock ..	shut	shut	shut	shut	—	—
Bank Stock ..	shut	shut	shut	shut	199	—
Exchq. Bills..	41 pm.	41 pm.	39 pm.	36 pm.	39 pm.	42 pm.
India Bonds ..	48 pm.	— pm.	50 pm.	51 pm.	48 pm.	50 pm.
Long Annuity.	shut	shut	shut	—	8 1/2	8 1/2

In the Foreign Market, a fair business has been done at good prices. Peruvian and Buenos Ayres have slightly risen. Spanish Bonds have declined.

The Market for Shares has been heavy, and a difficulty has been felt in making sales. It has been very drooping to-day. Independent of the adverse operation of political events, there is still the remnant of the unpleasant circumstances connected with the Newcastle line, and the mistrust exhibited at the subsequent meetings of proprietors in other companies. The Midland directors, apparently, are about to court inquiry. Nothing is as yet known for certain, as to the results of the inquiries which are pending.

The shareholders in the Irish railways are in better spirits since they heard of what passed when the deputation of Irish members waited on Lord John Russell, and are expecting some decisive action on the part of Government, and aid for the trunk lines. The Dublin and Belfast is especially in a position to be benefited by even a moderate assistance.

In Mark-lane, on Monday, business was dull, but prices were—though barely—maintained.

THE GAZETTE.

Friday, March 16.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 3rd day of March, 1849.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£28,314,555	Government Debt..	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	13,966,124
		Silver Bullion	348,431
			£28,314,555

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	£
Reserve	3,855,368	(including	
Public Deposits (in-		Dead Weight An-	
cluding Exchequer,		nuity)	14,074,183
Savings Banks, Com-		Other Securities ..	10,795,769
missioners of National		Notes	9,942,445
Debt, and Dividend Ac-		Gold and Silver Coin	862,399
counts)	6,140,572		
Other Deposits	9,997,754		
Seven-day and other			
Bills	1,128,002		
	£35,674,696		£35,674,696

Dated the 8th day of March, 1849.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Bethel, Lantwit Major, Glamorganshire.
Penyvey Chapel, Newcastle, Glamorganshire.
Silo, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire.
Bethesda Chapel, Lantwit Major, Glamorganshire.

BANKRUPTS.

ADAMS, HENRY, Bridgetown, Devonshire, scrivener, March 27, April 24: solicitors, Mr. Spyer, Broad-street-buildings, London; and Mr. Turner, Exeter.

ALLSOP, ELISHA, and ALLSOP, DAVID, Arlington-place, Back-road, St. George's-in-the-East, builders, March 23, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Hodgson, Great Tower-street, City.

AYRES, JAMES, Elham, Kent, farmer, March 23, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Richardson and Talbot, Bedford-row; and Mr. Sankey, Canterbury.

COSSINS, JOHN, New Church-street, Portman-market, linen-draper, March 29, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Davison, Basinghall-street.

CRAGO, THOMAS, Blackpool, Lancashire, grocer, March 27, April 23: solicitors, Mr. Appleby, Harper-a-treet, London; Mr. Liddell, Poulton, Lancashire; and Mr. Snowball, Liverpool.

FLYNN, JOHN THOMAS, Birmingham, grocer, March 22, April 21: solicitor, Mr. Harrison, Birmingham.

KELLY, WILLIAM LANCELOT, Newport, Monmouthshire, bookseller, March 23, April 28: solicitors, Messrs. Fry and Co., Cheapside.

LIGHT, JOHN, Weston-super-Mare, Somersetshire, saddler, March 30, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Irwin and Taylor, Gray's-inn; and Mr. Gibb, jun., Bristol.

NOKES, THOMAS, sen., Upminster, Essex, miller, March 23, April 30: solicitor, Mr. Towne, Devonshire-square.

PALMER, WALTER, Rugely, Staffordshire, corn merchant, March 27, April 24: solicitors, Messrs. Wilde and Co., College-hill, Queen-street, Cheapside; and Mr. Rawlins, Birmingham.

RAIT, GEORGE, Moorgate-street, City, tailor, March 28, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Desborough and Co., Size-lane.

RAWCASTLE, JOHN, Gateshead, Durham, copperas maker, March 23, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

SKINNER, WILLIAM, High-street, Aldgate, City, clothier, March 23, April 27: solicitors, Messrs. Mardon and Pritchard, Newgate-street.

WESSON, THOMAS, Nottingham, lace manufacturer, March 30, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Coope, Nottingham.

WILCOX, HENRY, Manchester, tailor, March 28, April 24: solicitors, Mr. Abbott, Lincoln's-inn-fields; and Messrs. Bennett, Manchester.

SOOTH SEQUESTERATIONS.

BISSET, G. A., Edinburgh, stay manufacturer, March 23, April 16.

BUCHANAN, A., Glasgow, gingham manufacturer, March 23, April 13.

CRANSTON, R., Edinburgh, hotel keeper, March 21, April 11.

CRUIKSHANK, W. L., Elgin, merchant, March 23, April 20.

DEWAR, T., Crieff, innkeeper, March 24, April 14.

LITTLE, R., Selkirk, joiner, March 19, April 9.

MYLES, D., Dundee, shipowner, March 22, April 21.

ROBERTSON, H., Greenock, merchant, March 22, April 12.

STRELL, W. R., Glasgow, merchant, March 23, April 13.

YOUNG, P., Glasgow, March 21, April 11.

DIVIDENDS.

Gabriel Benda, Camomile-street, City, importer of foreign goods, first div. of 5s.; March 19, and two subsequent Mondays, at Cannon's, Birch-lane—Matthew Davison, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper, first div. of 3s. 3d.; March 17, and any subsequent Saturday, at Wakley's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—George Douglas, Bury, Lancashire, draper, final div. of 3d.; March 20, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pott's, Manchester—Charles Edmonds, Strand, bookseller, first div. of 2s. 6d.; any Saturday, at Green's, Guildhall-chambers—James Gerry, Gilbert-street, Oxford-street, builder, first div. of 1s. 1d.; March 19, and two subsequent Mondays, at Cannon's, Birch-lane—James Steere, Guildford, watchmaker, first div. of 10s.; any Saturday, at Green's, Guildhall-chambers—Thomas Stirling, Stratford, Essex, slater, div. of 20s.; any Saturday, at Green's, Guildhall-chambers—Thomas Stirling, Stratford, Essex, slater, div. of 20s.; any Saturday, at Green's, Guildhall-chambers—William Champion Streetfield, Cornhill, underwriter, first and final div. of 20s.; March 17, and three subsequent Saturdays, at Groom's, Abchurch-lane.

Tuesday, March 20.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

STAFFORD, THOMAS, jun., St. John-street, West Smithfield, pawnbroker.

BANKRUPTS.

BROOKER, EDWIN, Cheltenham, carver, April 3, May 1: solicitor, Mr. Lindo, London.

CARLILL, THOMAS, Kingston-upon-Hull, grocer, April 4 and 25: solicitors, Mr. Horsley, Staple-inn; and Mr. Walker, Hull; and Mr. Shingleton, Leeds.

HODGSON, JAMES, and HODGSON, JOSEPH, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinner, April 3 and 24: solicitors, Messrs. Wiglesworth and Co., Gray's-inn; and Mr. Sutcliffe, Hebden-bridge; and Mr. Cronhelm, Leeds.

HOWES, GEORGE, Northwich, Cheshire, innkeeper, April 2 and 25: solicitors, Mr. Cole, Adelphi-terrace; and Mr. Saxton, Northwich.

JONES, THOMAS BASKERVILLE, Brecon, maltster, April 3, May 1: solicitors, Mr. Baker, Abergavenny; and Messrs. Bevan, Bristol.

KYRKE, GEORGE, Bryn Malley, Denbighshire, lime-burner, April 3 and 30: solicitors, Messrs. Williamson and Hill, Great James's-street, Bedford-row; Mr. Parker, Wrexham, Denbighshire; and Messrs. Mallaby and Co., Liverpool.

LEE, CHARLES, Marlborough-cottages, St. John's-wood, jeweller, March 29, May 3: solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Coleman-street.

LEWIS, JOHN, Manchester, cabinet maker, April 4 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; and Mr. Bell, Manchester.

MORRIS, GEORGE, West Cowes, Hampshire, broker, March 29, April 26: solicitor, Mr. Parker, St. Paul's-churchyard.

OSWIN, CHARLES, Harley-street, Cavendish-square, dentist, March 30, May 1: solicitor, Mr. Jones, Clifford-inn.

RISDALE, HENRY, and CHAUNCEY, HENRY CARTER SNELL, Liverpool, share brokers, March 30, May 10: solicitors, Messrs. Bradley and Son, Staple-inn; and Messrs. Carson and Ellis, Liverpool.

SMITH, RICHARD, Hathern, Leicestershire, tanner, March 30, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Brewster, Nottingham.

WAITE, JOHN, High Holborn, licensed victualler, March 29, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Govett, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-road.

WASSON, JOHN, Nottingham, lace manufacturer, March 30, April 27: solicitor, Mr. Wells, Nottingham.

WILSON, JOHN, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, steel manufacturer, April 4 and 25: solicitors, Messrs. Vincent, Temple, and Hodges, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

George Callam, Manchester, shawl manufacturer, final div. of 3d.; at Mr. Pott's, Manchester, any Tuesday—Isaac Denning, Tichbourne-street, St. James's, watchmaker, second div. of 5d.; at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—George Edward Dinsdal, Middleham, Yorkshire, solicitor, div. of 1s. 1d.; at Mr. Young's, Leeds, any day—David Hughes, Tredgar, Monmouthshire, grocer, first div. of 5s. 5d.; at Mr. Miller's, Bristol, any Wednesday—William Insall, Shipton-on-Stour, Worcestershire, auctioneer, second div. of 6d.; at Mr. Whitmore's, Birmingham, any Friday—John Lovesy, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, librarian, second div. of 1s., and first div. of 7s. 6d. upon new profits; at Mr. Miller's, Bristol, any Wednesday—Joseph Raleigh and Thomas Smith Goode, Manchester, merchants, final div. of 3d.; at Mr. Pott's, Manchester, any Tuesday—Thomas Charles Stanbrough, Berners-street, Oxford-street, wine merchant, second div. of 1s. 2d.; at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—James Stockham, Bristol, licensed victualler, div. of 8s. 11d.; at Mr. Acraman's, Bristol, any Wednesday.

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, March 19.

The supply of English Wheat to-day was again very short, but the demand limited, without any alteration in last week's prices. We had a large attendance of country buyers, but their purchases were confined to retail quantities of foreign Wheat, which sold fully as dear. The Flour trade was dull and rather lower for English. Barley and Malt went off very slowly, unless very fine, and barely maintained last week's prices. Fine Beans were scarce and quite as dear. Grey Peas met less demand, and white sold rather cheaper. In Rye nothing doing. The demand for Tares was very limited. Good and fresh Oats sold pretty readily, but inferior sorts were very dull and rather cheaper. Cloverseed met a slow sale on rather lower terms. Linseed Cakes dull sale. The current prices are under.

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MARCH 10.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	45s. 1d.	Wheat	45s. 10d.
Barley	29 0	Barley	29 3
Oats	16 11	Oats	17 2
Rye	26 11	Rye	27 4
Beans	30 1	Beans	30 1
Peas	33 1	Peas	33 1

DUTIES.

Wheat, Rye, Barley, Peas, Beans, Oats, and Maize, 1s. per qr. Flour, 4d. per cwt. Cloverseed, 5s. per cwt.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 19.

Our market to-day was very moderately supplied with each kind of fat stock; but from the various home-grazing districts the fresh receipts of Beasts were seasonably large, and in excess of those noticed on this day so-nigh: both as to number and quality. The dead markets being heavily supplied with their last week's arrivals, and the attendance of both town and country buyers small, the Beef trade here this morning was again excessively heavy, at a decline in the quotations paid on Monday last of 2d. per 8 lbs. A few very prime Scots produced 3s. 8d., but the general top figure for Beef did not exceed 3s. 6d. per 8 lbs., at which a clearance was not effected. The numbers of Sheep were again on the increase, and at least two-thirds of them were above the average quality. There were nearly 7,000 Sheep more in the market than at the corresponding period in 1848. For all breeds the demand was heavy in the extreme, and to effect sales prices receded 2d. per 8 lbs. from those of Monday last. The highest general figure for the best Downs in the wool was 4s. 4d., out of the wool 3s. 10d. per 8 lbs. About a third of the supply was shorn. The few Lambs on offer realized from 6s. 6d. to 7s. per 8 lbs. Calves, the supply of which was very moderate, moved off slowly at drooping prices. In Pigs next to nothing was doing. In the quotations no material change took place.

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	732	2,910	221	220
Monday	3,722	22,340	114	260

Price per stone of 8 lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.	Veal	3s. 8d. to 4s. 10d.
Mutton	2 10 .. 4 4	Pork	2 .. 4 2

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, March 19.

	Per 8 lbs. by the carcase.		
Inferior Beef 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.	Int. Mutton 2s. 4d. to 2s. 8d.		
Middling do 2 6 .. 2 8	Mid. ditto .. 2 10 .. 3 4		
Prime large 2 10 .. 3 0	Prime ditto 3 6 .. 3 10		
Prime small 2 .. 3 4	Veal	3 8 .. 4 8	
Large Pork 2 10 .. 3 6	Small Pork .. 3 8 .. 4 4		

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.

No change, either interesting or important, has occurred in our markets since our last communication. Of Butter the transactions in Irish have been to a fair extent at prices varying according to kind and quality from 56s. to 76s. per cwt.—Bacon: Irish singed sides sold slowly at 50s. to 56s. per cwt. Hams in moderate request at 61s. to 74s. per cwt., and Lard in bladders at 50s. to 60s.; kegs, 40s. to 46s. per cwt. American singed Bacon moderately saleable at 42s. to 45s. Short middles rib in at 40s. to 43s.; long boneless, 41s. to 43s. per cwt.

ENGLISH BUTTER MARKET, March 19.—We are now getting an increased supply of new Butter to market, and all sorts are declining in price. As to our stock of old Butter it seems quite neglected, but should a buyer appear he may make his own terms. Dorset, fine new milk, 106s. to 108s. per cwt.; ditto, middling, 90s. to 96s.; ditto, old, 56s. to 70s.; Fresh Buckinghamshire, 11s. to 13s. per dozen; ditto, West Country, 9s. to 12s.

BREAD.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 7½d.; of household ditto, 5d. to 6½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, March 17.—The market continues to be well supplied with Vegetables and fruit. Pine-apples are sufficient for the demand. A few hot-house Grapes have made their appearance. Pears are becoming scarce; they consist of Beurré Rance and Easter Beurré. Apples are getting dearer. Nuts in general are sufficient for the demand. Oranges and Lemons are plentiful. Amongst Vegetables, Carrots and Turnips are abundant; Cauliflowers and Broccoli, sufficient for the demand. Asparagus is dearer; French Beans, Rhubarb, and Seakale, are plentiful. Potatoes remain stationary. Lettuces and other saladings are sufficient for the demand. Mushrooms are plentiful. Cut Flowers consist of Heaths, Pelargoniums, Christmas Roses, Camellias, Gardenias, Tulips, Hyacinths, Cinerarias, Fuchsias, and Roses.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, March 19.—Coloured and choice samples of new and yearling Hops command a ready sale at very firm quotations. Inferior descriptions are difficult of disposal at barely previous rates.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK WATERSIDE, March 19.—The continental arrivals continue to be liberal, which, with our home supply, are quite equal to our wants. The following are this day's quotations:—Yorkshire Regents, 100s. to 130s.; Scotch ditto, 90s. to 110s.; Ditto Cups, 100s. to 110s.; Ditto Whites, 70s. to 80s.; French Whites, 80s. to 95s.; Belgian, 80s. to 90s.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, March 19.—Since Monday last our market has continued tolerably steady. The deliveries have not exceeded 1,507 casks; yet prices, generally, have been supported. To-day P.Y.C., on the spot, was firm at 40s. 6d.; and for delivery during the last three months, 41s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 41s. per cwt., net cash; Rough Fat, 2s. 3½d. per 8 lbs.

WOOL, CITY, Monday, March 19.—The imports of Wool into London last week were small, including 158 bales from Germany, 148 from Sydney, and the rest from the Cape of Good Hope. The market for Wool is quiet. The following are the prices given by a broker:—Spanish.—B. 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d.; F. and S. 1½d. to 1s. 2d. per lb. Portugal.—Lisbon R. 8d. to 8½d.; do, F. and S. 6d. to 7d.; do, A. 6d. to 6½d.; Oporto, 7½d. to 7½d.; do, yellow and locks, 6d. to 6½d.; do, unwashed, 3d. to 3½d. per lb. United States.—Fleeces, clean, 10d. to 1s. 4d.; slips and skins, 8d. to 1s. per lb. Canadian.—Lamb's, 9d. to 10d. per lb. Russian.—Merino, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; brook-washed, 9d. to 10d.; common, 5½d. to 6d.; do, lamb's, 6d. to 6½d.; do, autumn, 5d. to 5½d. per lb. English Wool, 8d. to 1s. per lb. Irish Wool.—Hog fleeces, 10d. to 1s.; ewe and wether do, 9d. to 10d. per lb. Scotch Wool.—Laid Cheviot, 11s. to 14s.; do, cross, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; do, Highland, 5s. 9d. to 6s. 3d.; white Cheviot, 15s. to 18s.; do, Highland, 8s. 6d. to 9s. per 24 lbs.

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The Cloverseed trade was exceedingly dull, and prices were lower. Most other sorts of Seeds were also difficult of sale, with the turn in favour of the buyer.

BRITISH SEEDS.

Cloverseed, red 35s. to 40s.; fine, 45s. to 63s.; white, 34s. to 48s.	
Cow Grass (nominal)	—s. to —s.
Linseed (per qr.)	sowing 56s. to 60s.; crushing 42s. to 48s.
Linseed Cakes (per 1,000 of 3½ lbs. each)	£9 9s. to £10 10s.
Trefoil (per cwt.)	14s. to 21s.
Rapeseed, new (per last)	£27 to £31
Ditto Cake (per ton)	£4 15s. to £5
Mustard (per bushel) white	8s. to 10s.; brown nominal.
Turnip, white (per bush.) —s. to —s.; do, Swedish, —s. to —s.	
Coriander (per cwt.)	18s. to 25s.
Canary (per quarter)	95s. to 105s.; fine 110s. to 115s.
Tares, Winter, per bush	0s. 0d. to 0s. 0d.
Caraway (per cwt.)	28s. to 29s.; new, 30s. to 31s.
Rye Grass (per qr.)	17s. to 46s.

FOREIGN SEEDS, &c.

Clover, red (duty 5s. per cwt.) per cwt.	30s. to 40s.
Ditto, white (duty 5s. per cwt.) per cwt.	21s. to 42s.
Linseed (per qr.)	Baltic 42s. to 46s.; Odessa, 42s. to 46s.
Linseed Cake (per ton)	£8 to £9 10s.
Rape Cake (per ton)	£1 15s. to £2
Coriander (per cwt.)	16s. to 20s.
Hempseed, small (per qr.)	45s. to 48s.; do, Dutch, 45s. to 47s.
Tares (per qr.)	28s. to 40s.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 56lb. to 64lb., 1½d. to 1½d. per lb.; ditto, 64lb. to 72lb., 1½d. to 1½d.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 1½d. to 2d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 2½d. to 2½d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 2½d. to 3d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 3d. to 3½d.; ditto, 104lb. to 112lb., 3½d. to 4d.; Calf-skins, each, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 6d.; Horse hides, 7s. 6d.; Polled Sheep, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 4d.; Kents and Half-breeds, 4s. 10d. to 5s. 4d.; Downs, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 0d.

OILS.—Linseed, per cwt., 25s. 9d.; Rapeseed, English refined, 36s. 6d. to 37s.; brown, 35s. 6d. to 36s.; Gallipoli, per tun, £44; Spanish, £43; Sperm, £80 to £81, bagged £82; South

Sea, £36 10s. to £39; Seal, pale, £36 10s.; do, coloured, £23 10s.; Cod, £26; Cocoa nut, per tun, £28 to £42; Palm, £28 to £32. Whale Flins: South Sea, £170 per ton; North West, £160. Turpentine, rough, per cwt., £7; Spirits, English, naked, £33 to £34; do, American, in casks, £34 6s.; Rosin, Amber, per cwt., £6 to £7 6s.; Yellow, £4 to £4 6s.; Black, £3 8s. A fair demand prevails for Oils of all descriptions, and full prices are paid. Seed is not much wanted. Linseed and Linseed Cake are cheaper.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, March 19.—At per load of 36 trusses. Meadow

COAL MARKET, Monday, March 19.
Market still heavy, and without any alteration in prices from last day.

(Prices of Coals per ton at the close of the market.)

Buddle's West Hartley, 14s. 6d.; Carr's Hartley, 14s. 6d. East Adair's Main, 12s.; New Tanfield, 13s. 6d.; North Percy Hartley, 13s. 6d.; Ravensworth West Hartley, 13s. 6d.; Walker's Primrose, 12s.; Wylam, 13s.; West Hartley, 14s. 6d.; Wall's-end; Brown's, 13s.; Framwellgate, 14s. 6d.; Hedworth, 12s.; Hilda, 13s. 6d.; Percy Bensham, 13s. 3d.; South Killingworth, 12s. 3d.; Eden Main, 14s. 9d.; Lambton Primrose, 15s.; Belmont, 15s. 3d.; Hetton, 16s. 3d.; Haswell, 16s. 3d.; Jonassons, 13s.; Lambton, 16s.; Shotton, 15s.; Benson, 13s. 6d.; South Hartlepool, 14s. 6d.; Thornley, 14s. 9d.; Trimdon, 13s. 9d.; Whitworth, 12s. 9d.; Adelaide Tars, 15s. 6d.; Denison, 14s. 6d.; Seymour Tars, 14s. 6d.; Tars, 16s.; The Bishop's Tars, 16s.; West Hetton, 14s. 3d.; Hartley, 13s. 9d.; Nixon's Merthyr, 20s. 6d. Ships from last day, 84; fresh arrivals, 48. Total, 132.

COLONIAL MARKETS, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 20.

The sugar market has opened with a very dull appearance, and although a reduction of 6d. was submitted to, but a small amount of business has been done. 80 hhds. only of West India sold in the private contract market. Out of the 6,000 bags Mauritius offered about one-third was bought in; brown sold 34s., 36s.; yellow, 37s., 39s. 6d. Of Bengal, 7,800 bags, and more than half bought in; white Benares sold 39s., 42s. 6d.; Mauritius kind, 38s. 6d., 40s. About 500 bags Madras sold, brown, 31s., 33s. 6d.; yellow, 34s., 36s. Refined market dull, and last week's prices scarcely supported.

COFFEE.—The only public sales to-day have been of Mocha, one of 2,300 bags imported from Hodeida; the quality was fair green, but not so clean garbled as Bombay. A few lots sold at 50s.; the remainder bought in by the importer at the price. About 200 bags very good clean garbled regular import sold 58s. 6d., 60s. We have not any transactions reported in Ceylon to-day.

Rice has further declined 3d., and the prices must now be considered on a par with the lowest period.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

THE NEXT METROPOLITAN PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the British School-room, Denmark-Terrace, Islington, on **THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 29th**. The Chair will be taken at SEVEN o'clock precisely.

Mr. MIAL, and other gentlemen, will address the meeting. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Offices: 4, Crescent, Blackfriars.

SOCIETY FOR ASSISTING TO APPRENTICE THE CHILDREN OF DISSIDENT MINISTERS.

(Instituted 1829.)

THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Governors, Members, and Subscribers of this SOCIETY will be held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, BLOMFIELD-STREET, FINCHBURY CIRCUS, on **TUESDAY, the 27th day of MARCH, 1849, at ELEVEN o'clock**, when FIVE CANDIDATES from the subjoined list will be elected to the benefit of the Institution.

By order of the Committee.

CHARLES JAMES METCALFE, } Secretaries.
JAMES SPONG, }

The Poll will commence at Eleven o'clock, and close at One precisely.

Martha Warriner	George Wheeler
Julia Selway Glanville	Benjamin Humphreys
William John Parrett	James William Morgan
Thomas Griffith Jones	Mary Elinor James
Thomas Bumpus	David George Jones
Thomas Player	James Bailey
James Barrows	John Owen Rees
Joseph Theophilus Bishop	

PATENT GUTTA PERCHA HARNESS

WAREHOUSE, 546, Oxford-street. Manufactory, 2, Regent-street, City-road, London.

H. HARRISON, late W. E. WASHBOURNE, begs to call attention to the GUTTA PERCHA HARNESS, manufactured by himself under License from the Gutta Percha Company's Patent, which possesses many and great advantages hitherto unattainable. It has those of Cheapness of first Cost, Durability, Lightness, and saving of the expense and trouble of Oiling; and if by any accident it should be cut or broken, is easily repaired, and without expense. H. Harrison also keeps on sale a large assortment of all articles now made of Gutta Percha. Every kind of Biding and Driving Whips; Plaited and Solid Mill-bands and Tubing; Inkstands, Picture-frames, Dessert and Card Plates; Ornaments and Devices in great variety, Fire-buckets, Bowls, and every new article, as soon as they are invented and manufactured.

List of Prices sent free on application by post.

GUTTA PERCHA DUBBING, made by WASHBOURNE; only, is an article which none exposed to the weather, or liable to take cold, should be without; it renders Boots and Shoes, &c., waterproof, soft, and durable, and is invaluable at this changeable season of the year. Sold in pots at 3d., 6d., and 1s., by most Bootmakers and Saddlers.

H. HARRISON, late W. E. WASHBOURNE's Manufactory and Warehouse, 546, Oxford-street, London.

COALS.

R. S. DIXON, Providence Wharf, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, begs to inform his Friends and the Public (he may confidently say without exaggeration) that he can supply them better and cheaper than any other house in the trade west of London-bridge. He has a contract with the most Honourable the Marquis of Londonderry and others for best Coals. He has ships of his own constructed to lower their masts, and come above bridge and deliver alongside his wharf, by which he is enabled to supply Coals of a much better size than when they have been broken by being turned over into barges. He also saves the great loss of small occasioned by it, at least 6d. a ton, ship's delivery, &c., 1s., lighterage 9d.

Best Sunderland Coals well screened	for Cash	22 0
Best Newcastle ditto ditto	ditto	21 0
Best Seconds ditto ditto	ditto	19s. to 20 0

Welsh, Hartley, and Engine Coals of all kinds on the lowest possible terms.

HEAL and SON'S LIST of BEDDING, containing a full description of weights, sizes, and prices, by which purchasers are enabled to judge the articles best suited to make a good set of bedding, sent free by post, on application to their Factory, 196 (opposite the Chapel), Tottenham-court-road, London.

FURNITURE AND LOOKING-GLASSES.

THE extensive celebrity of **JOSEPH LOADER'S** Establishment, for twenty-five years, for all articles appertaining to the Upholstering Business, affords a certain guarantee to all purchasers from his Stock, that whatever they may select will be of the most approved Fashion and best workmanship, moderately charged.

A tasteful assortment, suitable to the decoration of the Dining, Drawing-room, Library, and Boudoir, is uniformly kept, comprising Chairs, Tables, Pier and Chimney Glasses, Chiffoniers, Drawers, Wardrobes, Carpets, Mattresses, and Bedding, at regularly fixed prices, corresponding with the wants or elegances of Household Economy, offered on terms with which none but first-rate houses can successfully compete.

Descriptive Catalogues may be obtained, on application, by any party who may be desirous to make special contract for any requisites for the commencement or completion of Housekeeping, coupled with suggestions essential to ensure comfort and respectability.

PRESENT TARIFF.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Solid rosewood chairs, French polished..	0 15 0	ea. to 1 2 0
Sets of eight mahogany ditto	4 4 0	.. 4 10 0
Sets of eight mahogany Trafalgar	4 16 0	.. 5 10 0
Gondola easy chairs (in leather)	1 8 0	.. 1 16 0
Langham easy chairs, spring stuffed....	1 1 0	.. 1 8 0
Reclining chairs, in leather, spring stuffed.....	2 0 0	.. 3 5 0
Mahogany lounging chairs, carved throughout, spring stuffed, in Morocco, on patent castors.....	3 4 0	.. 3 10 0
Couches, with loose squabs, all hair	2 15 0	.. 3 15 0
Mahogany loo tables, French polished..	2 11 0	.. 2 14 0
Rosewood ditto, on pillars	3 10 0	.. 4 8 0
Rosewood chiffoniers, with carved backs and marble tops, 3 ft., carved	3 5 0	.. 3 10 0
4 ft. carved mahogany sideboard, with drawers and four doors, cellarets and trays, complete, French polished.....	4 12 0	.. 5 15 0
Mahogany dining tables, with sliding frames, loose leaves, and castors.....	3 12 6	.. 5 5
Mahogany bedsteads, with cornices or poles, sack-ing or lath bottoms, polished Superior ditto, massive pillars, carved, double screwed, and bracketed round..	4 0 0	.. 4 15 0
6 6 ..	7 15 6	
3-foot 6-inch elliptic wash-stands, marble tops	2 12 6	.. 3 12 6
Dressing tables, en suite	2 5 0	.. 2 11 0
Winged wardrobe, with drawers in centres	8 10 0	.. 15 0 0
ft. mahogany or japanned chest of drawers	2 5 0	.. 2 15 0
Chamber chairs, with cane or willow seat	0 3 0	.. 5 0
Chimney glasses, in gilt frames, 30 by 18 to 40 by 24 in.	2 1 0	.. 17 0
Alva or Wool Mattress, 4 ft. 6 in.	0 16 6	.. 17 6

* Shipping and Country Orders promptly executed, and the customary allowances made in all wholesale transactions.—December, 1847.

JOSEPH LOADER'S Establishment, 23, Pavement, Finsbury, London, to whom it is requested, as a favour, that all letters may be addressed in full.

PALETOT EMPORIUM, 37, POULTRY.

T. PARKINS (from Messrs. H. I. and D. Nicoll's, Regent-street) offers the **PALETOT**, at the reduced price of Thirty-six Shillings; and the Double-Mill'd Substance, at the reduced price of £2 12s. 6d. Every kind of overcoat kept in stock in Albert Capes and Chesterfields.

Black Dress Coats...£2 7 6 Made from Saxony West of Do. Frook do., lined England Cloth, patent finish, with silk..... 2 15 0 and fast colours.

Also, the new Coat, the **OXONIAN**, in black and other colours, at the moderate price of Thirty-five Shillings. This is one of the most graceful garments yet introduced, and is much preferred by many to the Dress Coat.

SAXONY DOUBLE-MILLED BLACK TROUSERS, Twenty-five Shillings, and **FANCY TROUSERS** and **WAIST-COATS** in great variety, of the newest designs, cut on scientific principles, and an excellent fit guaranteed.

The "**PALETOT EMPORIUM**" is the only establishment yet opened giving the quality, style, and workmanship of the best west-end tailors, at prices so moderate that all purchasers see they have good value for their money. The low prices of fine Continental and Australian Wools, with other circumstances, offer facilities for carrying out this arrangement which will be so strictly adhered to as to satisfy the most particular customer.—**Paletot Emporium, 37, Poultry, near the Bank.**

N.B.—Catalogues of prices sent free, per post, upon application.

THE TWO HOUSES.—FINANCIAL REFORM.

"Curtail your expenses," we hear everywhere said; Now, to do this completely, begin at the head. Since all great reforms emanate from the brain; And, therefore, let's trust this appeal is not vain. The aid of the fair sex we need in our plan Of financial reform—for we know that they can, By selecting their goods from the Blue House depôts, Establish the fact that our stock of *chapeaus* Is the largest in London—the cheapest, the best, From the north to the south, from the east to the west. We've the newest Parisian styles in our stock, Replete with improvements of bleach and in block; Our Bonnets are famed the Metropolis round, And none can be more economical found; Is the Royal Blue Houses your suffrages seek, With Freestone for Premier, whose styles are unique.

E. W. FREESTONE can now offer for inspection the most varied and extensive stock of Bonnets in the Metropolis, comprising the *à la mode* of the newest Parisian Fashions: also every description of Leghorn, Chip, Tuscan, Rice, and other Bonnets; with Ornamental Plaits of all kinds. Leghorns and Chips blocked by Hydraulic Pressure; and the whole bleached by De la Rue's Patent Process. Straw Bonnets cleaned at 6d. each, or 5s. per dozen.

Observe! **THE ROYAL BLUE HOUSES**, 11, High-street, Islington, and 152, High-street, Shoreditch.

E. W. FREESTONE, Proprietor. Shippers, Drapers, and Country Dealers supplied at Dunstable prices. Orders per post, with a remittance, promptly executed.

THE TEETH.—IMPORTANT.—It is not,

perhaps, generally known, that, in early life, the mouth can be made to assume the most regular and pleasing conformation, by the judicious treatment of the teeth. Even at a later period projecting teeth, and those other dental deformities which so unpleasantly affect the character of the mouth, may be removed without pain, and with entire safety. Thirty years of extensive and successful practice entitle Mr. Nicholles, Surgeon Dentist, to speak with confidence on the subject, and also to affirm, that he has devised the most efficient mode of making and fixing artificial teeth, so that they can be worn without the slightest inconvenience, while they enable the wearer to masticate with perfect facility.

Mr. Nicholles attends at his Dental Surgery, No. 125, Regent-street, every day, from Twelve o'clock till Five.

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"I remain, yours truly, 'O. HAMEROCK."

"To Mr. Keating, 79, St. Paul's-churchyard."

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HARPER TWELVETREES respectfully solicits attention to the following Letter, relating to his "**SCIENCE OF WASHING**," which was addressed to the Editor of the *Northern Worker*, and which appeared in that journal of February 8th, 1849:—

"Dundee, February 7th, 1849.

"Sir,—Allow me, through the medium of your valuable journal, to impart to Free Church ministers' families and others, a washing process they will find of considerable value, with their small incomes. The writer was induced to try a new process for washing clothes, she had seen advertised, as a saving of time, labour, and money. After repeated trials it has been proved to be so valuable, that it would be selfish to withhold it from others. The process is simple, whitens the clothes, and in no way injures them; but indeed saves them, by avoiding the hard rubbing of the old method. About one-third of soap is at least saved, one-fourth of time, and three-fourths of labour. Two of the public institutions in town, the Royal Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum, besides private families, have tried it with great success; and it has only to be known to recommend itself. The printed directions are to be had of Mr. Harper Twelvetrees, &c. &c."

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None are genuine without the gold cover and Proprietor's name. See all the principal magazines for March.

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THE Committee of the National Temperance Society, in order to promote the objects to which it is devoted, offer **TWO PRIZES**, one of £20 and the other of £10, for the best Essays on the Principles and Practice of Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

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The names of the adjudicators will be announced at a future time.

The Essays, which must not exceed forty-six 8vo pages, to be sent under cover, accompanied with a sealed letter enclosing the real name and address of the writer, on or before the 1st of November, 1849, to the Secretary of the National Temperance Society, 11, Tokenhouse-yard.

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ISAAC DOXSEY, Secretary.

11, Tokenhouse-yard, March 8th, 1849.

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THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CONTRIBUTORS

was held in the Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 21st of February, 1849.

CHARLES MORTON, Esq., Writer to the Signet, the Senior Director, in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN said: Before proceeding to the more formal business of the meeting, I have to congratulate the members of the Scottish Provident Institution on our having this day assembled together as a corporation, sanctioned and empowered by Act of Parliament. Formerly, when we met, it was as a mere private body; but we have lately found it necessary, from the rapid increase of business, and the consequent extent and importance of our transactions, to apply to Parliament for corporate powers and privileges. A bill was accordingly introduced last session, and evidence as to the principles and the present position and standing of the Institution having been given before committees of both Houses, an Act was obtained without difficulty, and we have now, for the first time, met in virtue of that Act, as a corporation—a body that never dies.

By the statute the Institution has obtained most valuable powers and privileges, which will enable us readily and conveniently to make and realize investments, to recover debts, to deal with agents, and in general to transact with facility the varied matters of business attendant upon a large and rapidly accumulating capital. There is more, however, in our statute than the pledge which it conveys of the endurance of the Institution, and the benefits of these corporate rights. Special powers have been given, which Parliament alone could confer, of a most important kind, especially with reference to our position in England and Ireland, and which must prove highly advantageous to our business in these parts of the Empire. Formerly, being only a private Scottish Company, the law required the representatives of the assured to come to the Scotch Courts to complete a legal title to discharge the sums in our policies; and, if it had been necessary to sue the Institution for payment (which it has not, and I hope never will be), the suit could only have been brought before a Scottish court. This formed a great obstacle to the extension of our business out of Scotland. By the statute, however, an English or an Irish probate is made equally effective with a Scotch confirmation, and the latter may now be dispensed with. In like manner the statute renders us amenable to the English courts, at the suit of English policy-holders, in regard to whom, indeed, we are now in all respects an English office.

Another important object effected by the act was the abrogation of a provision in the original Deed of Constitution, by which every case of difference was made referable to the Sheriff of Edinburgh. Now, though such an arbitration clause was a very suitable one while our business was confined to Scotland, it was wholly out of the question in the case of parties assured in England or Ireland. In lieu of this provision, the act of Parliament gives policy-holders the option, should any difference arise, either of suing us in Court, or of calling on us to join in a reference to Arbitrators, mutually appointed. Another provision of the act is also important for English and foreign business generally. Considerable difficulty has been frequently felt as to assignments of Policies executed out of Scotland, and as to the form of intimating such assignments, which, by the Scotch law, is essential to their validity. All such difficulties have been removed by the statute. It regulates the form of executing assignments out of Scotland; and it provides for a simple and uniform mode of intimating such assignments to the Institution. Great facilities are thus given for carrying through transactions in connexion with our Policies.

You will at once perceive that these provisions of the statute form very valuable boons; and I cannot doubt, that when they become known in England, a very large extension of our business there will take place.

I have farther to explain, that, in connexion with the act of Parliament, and while considering and adjusting its provisions, the Directors found it expedient to make an anxious and careful revival of our Deed of Constitution. In some respects they found that alterations were desirable; but as any changes proposed would be, to a considerable extent, dependent upon the terms of the act as passed by Parliament, they considered it the most prudent course not to bring them before you for your sanction till after the act should be obtained. The alterations which the Directors recommend will be submitted to you to-day for your approval. You will bear in mind, in considering them, that though the statute, which necessarily involved alterations of such provisions in our original constitution as its enactments superseded, was submitted for your approval last year, and these alterations are submitted now, the two measures are intrinsically and in substance one and the same; and I am anxious that this should be distinctly understood, that no one may suppose that there is any desire to have a yearly tampering with our Deed of Constitution, than which nothing can be less expedient in any case, or less necessary in ours. What we have to do to-day is simply the conclusion of what we did in part at our meeting this time twelve months, and the completion of the only change that has been made in a period of more than eleven years.

Keeping this in view, I may very shortly explain that the alterations proposed do not touch any of our leading or fundamental principles. They may be divided into two branches—first, those intended for the removal of small practical defects, which experience has shown in the working of some of the provisions of the Deed; and, secondly, those intended to give greater security to the assured, by the removal of all unnecessary grounds of forfeiture of Policies.

With the first of these, which includes the alterations requisite to bring the Deed into conformity with the Act of Parliament, I need not detain you. They are of the slightest possible kind; but that you may all see precisely what they are before you approve of them, a copy of the Original Deed will be put into the hands of each gentleman present, while the Manager will read the corresponding articles as it is now proposed they shall stand.

The second class of alterations we consider highly important, and under the feeling that they are so, we have thought it proper to explain them deliberately and fully in the Report to be laid before you to-day. As it will be immediately read, I need not go into this branch of the business at any length, but I may shortly state, that the great object at which we aim

is to make certain, as far as we possibly can, that the provision expected by an Assured will be enjoyed by his family on his death.

[The Chairman then went over the several alterations in regard to forfeiture, which are fully explained in the Report by the Directors, and continued]—

The only other alteration to which I shall advert is the introduction of a clause giving power to the Directors to pay the sums in Policies within the stipulated period of six months after the death of a member—of course, under deduction of interest for the period to run. We have frequently found, on the death of a parent, that prompt payment of the provision was a matter of great importance to his family, and in practice the Directors have never hesitated to pay the claim at once whenever an early settlement was wished. It has been thought advisable, however, that an express authority to that effect should be embodied in the Regulations.

Such, gentlemen, are the alterations proposed to-day for your approval. We consider them very important, not merely for the interests of our own Institution, but for the promotion of the great cause of Life Assurance, and especially of *Mutual Assurance*. In Mutual Assurance Societies there is no place for conflicting interests. Ours is a law of love. All of us are interested in each other's welfare; and all are alike benefited by making our own and our neighbour's policy an indefeasible and certain provision, where the transaction has been entered into with honesty and fairness. We propose these alterations, therefore, as being sound in principle, and certainly in no spirit of over-competition. We should be happy to see other offices follow our example, so that all of us may be in a position to do the greatest amount of good amongst our fellows. Still I must say, I am glad that this Institution has had the honour to propose these changes. We were the first to combine Moderate Premiums with the system of Mutual Assurance, and, at the risk of losing the support of a powerful class, we have ever reprobated the system of bribery, which, under cover of a commission to law-agents, tended to lead them to sacrifice the interests of their clients for the promotion of their own. It is right that we should also stand foremost in removing useless and injudicious restrictions, and in placing the Mutual system on the most liberal footing; and I cannot doubt that, if you shall concur in the views of the Directors, and shall sanction the alterations which have formed the subject of their anxious consideration for the last eighteen months, the very best results will follow, not only to our own institution, but to the cause of Life Assurance in general.

ARCHIBALD THOMSON, Esq., as Convener of the Committee brought up the following

REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS.

"The year to which the present Report refers has been unexampled in commercial difficulty and depression, and although the amount of new business falls somewhat short of the previous year, the Directors conceive that they have good ground for congratulation in the results which they are enabled to state.

"The number of new Policies issued, namely, 430, is greater than in any year since the commencement, with the exception of the immediately preceding year. The amount of Assurances effected by these Policies is £172,714 6s., and of the Annual Premiums thereon, £5,199 9s. 2d.

"Notwithstanding the increased number of members, and the high rate of mortality in the country, heightened by the ravages of the epidemic which has been so fatal in many parts of Scotland, it is gratifying to state that the amount of claims emerging in the past year is considerably lower than was reported in the preceding year. Among members assured for capital sums thirty-one deaths have occurred, the total amount of their Policies being £14,650. Several annuities and contingent assurances have terminated favourably for the fund.

"At 31st December, 1848, upwards of 3,400 Policies had been issued. The amount of subsisting Assurances was £1,254,478 13s., and the income for Premiums alone, exclusive of revenue from the Accumulated Fund, £34,930 3s. 5d.

"The Biennial Meeting of contributors resident in Glasgow was held there on 30th January, when a very satisfactory statement was given of the progress of the Branch. Messrs. Wm. J. Davidson and Plummer Dewar, merchants, were suggested by the meeting as Local Directors in room of the two retiring, and these gentlemen have accordingly been appointed by the General Board.

"The Directors are happy to say that the London Branch continues to make progress, and that its business is conducted in a highly satisfactory manner."

[The Report then alluded to the Statute of Incorporation, and to the alterations on some of the details of the Deed of Constitution referred to in the Chairman's address, proceeding]—

"In the sound administration of an Assurance Society, it may be assumed that the assured should have the highest practicable security for the attainment of the object contemplated by him. Nor ought this security to be dependent on the good feeling or liberal conduct of Directors, but should be absolute, as forming an integral part of the contract between the assurer and the assured. In conformity with these views, the contingencies which involve a forfeiture of the policy ought to be as few as is compatible with the safety of the Society. In the older Assurance Companies, which were mostly proprietary, such contingencies were comparatively numerous, in part appearing in specific terms on the face of the Policy, and in part deducible, by legal inference, from its phraseology. This multiplication of forfeitures probably arose in no small degree from a desire on the part of the Companies to increase their profits by depriving the assured of the benefits for which he had paid. No such inducement can exist on the part of societies for Mutual Assurance, in which the interests of the assurer and the assured are necessarily identical. The injustice of these forfeitures, as well as their influence in deterring from assurance, are self-evident. And it is obviously for the interest both of the community and of Assurance Societies that such grounds of forfeiture should be abolished, as far as is consistent with safety. And although the abrogation, or relaxation, of some of them may, when each is considered apart, have no great effect in promoting Life Assurance generally, or the welfare of a particular institution, yet, when combined, such abrogations will operate forcibly in creating the desired feeling of security and confidence, and in giving the promise of a steady advance in liberal principles.

"Such feelings of insecurity have of late become especially prevalent, from the construction which, in some cases, has been given to the warranty, or condition, that there shall be a forfeiture, if the proposal and declaration made at admission, as the basis of the contract, shall contain any untrue averment. This rule has hitherto formed a part of the articles of Assurance Companies, and it has been so interpreted as to subvert all reasonable confidence in the validity of the contract, for it has been held, that although there be no fraud, or concealment, or misrepresentation, and although both the applicant and his referees acted with perfect good faith in making the averment, yet if it should be eventually found to be "untrue," the policy was forfeited. The most obvious, as well as most common, illustration of the effect of this interpretation, is to be found in the assured having, at the date of the application, the germ of a malady which ultimately proved fatal, but of which he was entirely ignorant at the date of his declaration, and the existence of which was ascertained only by a *post mortem* examination. Here the object of the assurance would be absolutely defeated, and the company might profit largely, while the assured was acting with entire good faith. The actual state of the law on this subject is very unsatisfactory for the assured, and it is not surprising that there should be a demand for a change in the rules of Assurance Companies. . . . Your Directors have thought it of the highest importance to adopt the rule that, with the exception of the averment as to age, there shall be no forfeiture unless the averments be fraudulent as well as untrue. This appears to be the just and reasonable construction of the contract; and that by which, notwithstanding the former words of the Deed of Constitution, the Directors would have governed themselves in practice. But according to a principle already indicated, they hold the sound course to be, that the security of the assured should be derived, not from their discretion, but from his right under the Deed of Constitution. This is the full length to which the principle of indefeasibility can safely be carried, for the doctrine maintained by some that the policy ought to be indefeasible even if fraud did exist, appears to be wholly untenable, for reasons which are too clear to require detail. The sound and just reasons for defeasibility through fraud ought not to be disregarded, on the ground that the instances in which frauds would be perpetrated would probably be rare. The forfeiture resulting from an untrue averment as to age has, however, been retained, because on that point accurate information can be procured with ordinary care, and no encouragement should be given to inattention to so important a part of the basis of the contract. But the power of allowing the correction of innocent error as to age is given to the Directors by the amended Rules.

"In connexion with the general question of forfeitures, it has also been thought advisable to annul the rule in two specific cases, and to modify it in a third.

"Hitherto forfeiture has been the result if the assured should die by the hand of justice, or in a duel. These forfeitures appear to have originated partly from an erroneous idea entertained by Assurance Companies that it was their duty to act as a kind of moral police, and partly from the actual danger of loss accruing from the state of the law and the unhappy usages of society. A sanguinary code of laws multiplied capital punishments, and a false idea of honour had rendered the practice of duelling of too common occurrence. But capital punishments have, partly by the alteration of the laws, and partly by public opinion operating through the verdicts of juries, ceased to exist, except in cases of deliberate murder. Duelling is now almost extinct, and in the few instances where it does occur the results are so seldom fatal, that, as a cause of death, it is so minute as to be inappreciable. No countenance can justly be held to be given to the practice by abrogating the forfeiture; and the true tone which Assurance Companies should now adopt is to regard duelling as an evil, the immediate cessation of which, it may be safely assumed, will be accomplished by the joint influence of principle and of the improved habits of society.

"While these forfeitures have been abrogated, another has been modified, as involving matter of difficulty. According to a strict view, suicide should be a cause of forfeiture only where it has been committed with the intention of defrauding the assurers. But the extreme difficulty of obtaining proof that such was the object, has rendered it necessary to adopt a broader rule, which has varied in the regulations of different Assurance Societies. In some there is a forfeiture if the party assured die by his own hand, although the act would not amount to *felo de se*; while, in others, it was provided that he must be held *felo de se*, and, therefore, of sound mind. The former rule is adverse to every dictate of justice and sound feeling. For, if the suicide be insane, his malady is the true cause of death, as much as if he died through cholera or fever. In accordance with this view, the rule has been so modified as that there shall be no forfeiture unless the deceased was of sane mind, or, in other words, wilfully and deliberately took away his life. In thus modifying the forfeiture, the loss by suicide will be hardly appreciable. From statistics which have been furnished to your Directors, by high medical authority, it appears that the deaths by suicide amongst the members of the community whose habits of mind would lead them to assure are so very few that a calculation of loss would be practically unobtainable.

"Where the policy has been assigned for onerous causes, it is proposed that there shall be no forfeiture, so far as regards the interests of such onerous holders, by the failure of the life of the assured by suicide. No argument is necessary to establish the propriety of this alteration, whether with regard to justice to the Policy-holders, or with a view to the commercial value of the policies."

This Report, with the relative States and the Report by the Auditors, having been read by the Manager,

ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq., publisher, Edinburgh, in submitting a motion for the approval of the Report, said he would have been glad if some one more intimately conversant with the business of the Institution had been entrusted with the motion. Still, on looking carefully over the Report, he came to the conclusion that little recommendation would be required to secure for it the approval of the meeting. After what had fallen from the Chairman and Mr. Thomson, it was the less necessary for him to detain the meeting with any remarks. He could not but congratulate the members of the Society on the business transacted during the past year. Considering the nature of the times, the Institution would have done well had it merely kept its ground—and that is, he assured them, what every office in Edinburgh had not done during the past year. The Institution

can only have reached its present eminence by much perspicacity, zeal, and industry, on the part of those connected with the management, conjoined with the soundness of the principles on which the Institution is based. He did not see much occasion for being sorrowful at the mortality which had occurred. Mortality is so essential to the very existence of an insurance company, that death becomes the very principle of its vitality instead of its mortality. The mortality during the past year was not greater than might have been expected, it was greatly less than the numbers composing the membership might have warranted us to expect. With regard to the alterations proposed in the Deed of Constitution, the whole of these had so long been familiar to his mind, that the moment they were submitted to him he was prepared to give them his cordial concurrence. He considered that all causes of litigation ought to be avoided; and, indeed, it was practically useless, for it was well known that a company had little chance of success in Court. Juries generally had a leaning towards the individual as against the combined Company. Therefore, he (Mr. Chambers) thought that the best way would be at once for the Company to divest their Policies of Insurance of all those alarming features which unnecessarily tended to deter individuals from insuring. If the effect of these forfeitures is merely that of deterring from insuring, better at once to give them up. It may be said, that when Policies are forfeited benefit accrues to the surviving body. But nothing that is gained by an act unjust in itself can redound to permanent or ultimate good. Though some profit might be made in that way, he had no faith in it; and he would call on the members of the Scottish Provident Institution to renounce it as unworthy of them. He (Mr. Chambers) would only repeat, that the alterations in the Deed of Constitution did not come upon him as anything strange—they appeared to him as the dictates of a sound and rational policy. He would leave it to other gentlemen to say whether they approved of them or not, but the meeting had his strong recommendation to give the alterations a unanimous approval. He would now conclude by submitting the following motion:—

"The Meeting approve of the Report now read; and further approve of the alterations on the Deed of Constitution and Laws and Regulations submitted by the Directors, and adopt the Laws and Regulations so altered as the Laws and Regulations of the Corporation of the Scottish Provident Institution."

WILLIAM J. DUNCAN, Esq., Manager of the National Bank of Scotland, seconded the motion.

The motion having been put, and reference made to that part of Art. 7 of the Laws as proposed to be amended, which provides for forfeiture in case a member, "being of sane mind, shall commit suicide," it was suggested, that, as it seemed to be considered very doubtful whether a person who did commit suicide could be, or would be held by a jury to be, of sound mind, it would be better to avoid any ground for question by doing away with the forfeiture altogether.

The CHAIRMAN said that the clause, as put by the Committee who had prepared the amendments, stood originally thus—"or shall, within six months from the date of the Policy, commit suicide." This form met the views of a great majority of the Directors, but it had been altered as it now stood to secure unanimity, as there seemed to be really little practical difference between the two. The meeting unanimously adopted this suggestion, and resolved that the Rule should stand thus—"or shall, within six months from the date of the Policy, commit suicide."

The amended Laws and Regulations, as reported on, were then read *seriatim*, and approved of, and Mr. Chambers' motion adopted unanimously.

The LORD PROVOST then proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors for their arduous and most successful labours during the past year; which was seconded by JAMES PADDIE, Esq., W.S.; and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was in like manner given to the Board of Directors in Glasgow, and to the Board at Manchester; to the Auditors and Trustees; and the Manager, Medical Officers, and other office-bearers of the Society.

The management for the ensuing year was vested in the following Gentlemen:—

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Its consumption has steadily increased, and its effect is as injurious to the fair trader, as it is demoralising to those engaged in its sale. Whilst the adulteration of Tea has always been considered in the highest degree criminal, it has come to be lightly regarded in Coffee; and whilst it is manifest, from the low price of Chicoree, that every dealer who uses it, should sell his Coffee at a corresponding reduction in price, it is almost unnecessary to add, that the fact is quite the contrary. We know of none who do not sell their mixture at the same price as the pure article, and, in some cases, even pence per pound higher.

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The only effectual remedy is always to purchase Coffee in the berry, and grind it at home, in a small mill for the purpose; unfortunately this cannot be done by the poor; they have no remedy, they are compelled by their poverty to buy small quantities of ground Coffee, and it is in consequence upon them that the chief part of the injury falls.

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